

1991 PRESS CUTTINGS

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Remembering Colin Roach

THE mysterious gun-shot death of Colin Roach in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station on

January 12 1983 struck a deep chord within the consciousness of Britain's black community.

The tragedy drew attention to the record of police officers in Hackney, east London, and adjoining districts. Colin is one of six people known to have lost their lives whilst in the custody of Hackney police officers over the past 20 years.

The inquest into Colin's death absolved the police of any blame for his fatal injuries but widespread public dissatisfaction led to the commissioning of an independent inquiry by the Roach family and their supporters. The inquiry's report cast serious misgivings on the inquest's supposition which inferred Colin's wounds were self-inflicted.

The Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) was formed in 1987 as a centralising organisation in response to the frequent complaints of police brutality by local residents.



■ The death of Colin Roach (inset) precipitated a spate of black-led protests in north and east London

During 1987 two young Hackney residents – Trevor Monerville and Gary Stretch – suffered near fatal injuries during encounters with Hackney police officers and Tunay Hassan lost his life whilst in Dalston police station.

During 1990 the HCDA handled over 60 cases. Some 80 per cent involved people of visible minority background, 31 per cent were female and 15 per cent involved complaints of brutality in-

flicted upon juveniles.

The annual *We Remember* commemoration, commencing with a torchlight procession to Dalston and Stoke Newington police stations and concluding with a rally outside Hackney police station, takes place on January 12 1991, the eighth anniversary of the tragic death of Colin Roach.

● For further details telephone HCDA 071-249 0193

CT 1-1-91

Police survey shows big support for arms

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

MORE than half of police officers would like to be routinely armed, a poll published today suggests. Younger officers are more enthusiastic about carrying weapons than their elders.

The survey of 1,200 officers, about 1 per cent of the police, suggests that almost as many officers are happy with the present arrangements, which are to be debated at the Police Federation conference in May. In a survey a year ago, 86 per cent of officers said they were satisfied with the status quo.

The changing response is felt to reflect police concern after the defeat in the Commons last month of a move to reintroduce hanging.

The federation has traditionally supported hanging for the killing of police officers and

some may feel that the routine arming of officers is the best alternative.

Less than half — 42.6 per cent — favoured routine arming in response to the question: "If the death penalty was in force, would you agree that police service should be armed?"

The survey, carried out by the magazine *Police Review*, found that 50.6 of respondents wanted to be armed, while 49.1 per cent felt the current procedure was correct. A total of 0.6 per cent — seven officers — felt that the police should not be armed under any circumstances.

Officers aged 26-35 were keener for routine arming than those aged 41-50. Of the former, 293 wanted routine arming as opposed to 242 in favour of the existing procedure. Of the older group, 74 were for routine arming, 90 against. Other age groups were split almost equally.

Among officers of chief

inspector and above surveyed, 70 per cent favoured the existing policy. The Association of Chief Police Officers remains opposed to routine arming.

Senior officers are generally in favour of a smaller number of highly trained officers using firearms, rather than a greater number with less marksmanship ability, which would result from routine arming.

Brian Hayes, chief constable of Surrey, said: "Tragically, officers are sometimes killed or injured by firearms and the effects of such incidents must not be minimised. Nevertheless, they are still relatively rare and there is no evidence that such occasions would be reduced if officers were armed."

The association believes that, if officers were always armed, criminals would be more likely to carry weapons and violence would escalate.

In response to the poll, the Police Federation chairman, Alan Eastwood, called for Parliament to debate the arming of police. He said the results were a signal that younger officers felt they would be safer if they were armed.

Barry Sheerman, the Labour home affairs spokesman, said the survey would not change his party's opposition to routine arming.

Police Review said that two recent shootings, one fatal, of officers in Manchester and London may have swayed feelings in the poll.

Poll responses by rank

	PC	Sgt	Insp	Chief Insp	Supt	Chief Supt	ACPO	Total	%
No arming	6 17	— 3	1 3	— 1	— —	— —	— —	7 24	0.6 2.4
Present procedure	352 395	134 155	56 65	27 27	11 13	4 4	3 3	587 662	49.1 55.4
Routine arming	387 333	146 122	49 38	10 9	8 6	1 1	— —	601 509	50.3 42.6
Total	745	280	106	37	19	5	3	1,195	

Figures in italics show responses if the death penalty was in place

Source: *Police Review*

GUARDIAN

3.1.91

Angry mob besiege police station after



● Chief Supt Roy Clark.

demo clashes

by CAROL DYCE and
RUSS LAWRENCE

A CROWD of 150 people besieged Stoke Newington police station following the arrest of dozens of striking Turkish workers yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

It followed violent scenes outside the Turkish Community Centre in Stoke Newington Road when police clashed with workers who were marking the anniversary of a national strike in Turkey.

Hundreds of employees at Turkish-owned clothing factories and restaurants in the borough had joined the sympathy action and gathered outside the community centre.

But violence flared when police say an unruly element arrived and began throwing stones at the windows of factories next to the centre in Somerford Grove.

Dozens of people were arrested and taken to Stoke Newington police station where more arrests followed after a large crowd of workers marched on the police station to protest.

Police said over 35 people were arrested and would be charged with public order offences and assault.

Heavy handed

But police were accused of using heavy-handed tactics on a peaceful gathering by Hackney Trades Union Support Group and the eight Turkish and Kurdish organisations that co-ordinated the strike.

Mark Metcalfe, of Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, said: "The workers were causing no trouble whatsoever. This has ruined one of the few days when workers in this country show solidarity with unions overseas."

He added that it was a sweat-shop boss who rang the police as he was angry at having to close his business down for the day as workers supported the strike.

Kurdish refugee Irfan Binboga, a 23-year-old student, told the Gazette: "We were just standing peacefully outside the centre talking to each other when the



● The Hakkevi Centre in Stoke Newington Road - scene of clashes between strikers and police.

● Pte: Ray Collins.

police turned up and told us to get back inside.

"I asked why but they wouldn't answer and became aggressive. I saw police punching my friends and hitting them with truncheons. I was shoved back inside. All we were doing was showing support for our friends in Turkey."

But Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clarke, strongly rejected the accusations of heavy-handed police tactics and brutality.

"It had been a peaceful gathering outside the community centre all morning and there was a minimal police presence of one or two officers, but at lunchtime a violent element arrived who started throwing stones."

"The officers who intervened were attacked and police reinforcements arrived later."

"More arrests were made outside the police station when demonstrators intent on entering the building refused to move."

Trevor Monerville cleared of assault

TREVOR MONERVILLE has been cleared of obstruction and assault charges on the fifth anniversary of the arrest and six day detention which ended when he was rushed to hospital for an emergency brain operation.

The latest acquittal, at Old Street Magistrates' court on New Year's Eve, is the third since Trevor, 23, hit the headlines when, on New Year's Day 1987, police found him asleep in a car which had been broken into.

After six days in custody Trevor, from Churchill Walk, Homerton, was admitted to a south London hospital with a blood clot on the brain. It is still not clear how he sustained brain damage.

Despite the fact that the police have strenuously denied that there is a campaign to discredit him, support group Hackney Community Defence Campaign think differently.

Spokesperson Graham Smith told the Gazette: "Trevor has not been arrested for over 18 months and still it seems that Hackney police have got it in for him."

Trevor was represented in court on Monday by Paul Boateng, a leading black rights campaigner and MP for Brent South. Trevor was in court in connection with an incident two days before a police raid on the Clapton Park Estate in October.

Since 1987 Trevor has been arrested and charged on three separate occasions. Each time he has been released or acquitted.



● Trevor Monerville

HC 4-1-91

Turkish demonstrators outside Stoke Newington police station after a protester had been released

'Anarchists behind attack on police'

E St
4-1-91

by Nigel Rosser

ANARCHISTS stirred up a mob of 500 Turkish demonstrators to attack Stoke Newington police station, officers said today.

Agitators whipped the mob into a frenzy and incited them to attack police in a community centre and outside the station, in a 16-hour riot that ended this morning.

Detectives are now hunting three white anarchists spotted among the mob of demonstrators provoking them to attack police throughout the day, Stoke Newington Chief Superintendent Roy Clark said.

The battle of Stoke Newington started around 2pm yesterday and ended at 4.30 this morning.

It resulted in 64 arrests and 25 policemen being injured, after a demonstration in support of a general strike in Turkey erupted into violence among Stoke Newington's large Turkish and Kurdish population.

Mr Clark said today: "People who are clearly not of Turkish extraction

were inciting things. Two or three of them were clearly seen instigating things by officers during the day, and I believe now they were stirring people up."

He said a gathering inside the local Turkish community centre had turned violent after local police officers tried to defuse the demonstration.

Spurred on by the agitators, "they tried to turn it into a fortress", Mr Clark said.

"Without the agitators, no one would even have known it was Turkish national strike day. There is no reason to believe there was anything other than token support for the strike. The agitators were just looking to inflame the situation—and they succeeded in inflaming what is a peaceful community."

After police made arrests outside the community centre in Stoke Newington Road, a mob of demonstrators moved

outside the police station and, using loud halers, threatened to take the station by force unless the arrested demonstrators were released.

Police outside the station, including four constables on their first day's assignment after leaving training college at Hendon, were attacked and 60 officers were called up to disperse the riot.

Officers from the police commissioner's reserve were drafted in. Thirty-one people were charged, with 27 bailed to appear on 24 January. Four charged with serious public disorder offences appeared at Highbury Corner magistrates' court today.

Mr Clark said: "I find it sad, because it was so unnecessary. Doctors, ambulance crews and solicitors, and everyone who came to the station, thought what a ridiculous event it was."

As the demonstration got out of hand, shopkeepers and factory workers who kept their premises open had their windows smashed by stones and were threatened with the loss of their business by rioters.

EVENING STANDARD

4.1.91

We are just a dustbin for dissidents

AT 4.30 last Friday morning, police finally dispersed a riot by 500 Turks and Kurds in North London.

The disturbances had lasted 16 hours. At one stage the mob surrounded Stoke Newington police station and threatened to take it by force.

Local residents and shopkeepers were terrorised. Windows were smashed and 25 police officers were injured. Sixty four people were arrested.

The rioting developed from a day of demonstrations in support of a general strike in Turkey.

Asylum

Most of those taking part were Kurdish refugees and Turkish immigrants from strife-torn Cyprus.

Britain has a long and honourable tradition of providing a safe haven for refugees, dating back to the Huguenots at the end of the 17th century.

Under the terms of the 1951 United Nations convention, we have an obligation to grant asylum



OUTRAGE... immigrant riots on British streets

to foreign nationals who have a genuine fear of persecution at home.

We have willingly complied with that obligation, not only providing asylum but making special provision to help refugees settle here.

We have a right to expect that they abide by British law and behave peacefully.

Britain is becoming a dustbin for dissidents.

Offering a safe haven is one thing. But increasingly the world's battles

are being fought out on British streets.

London suburbs should not be disrupted by demonstrations in support of a general strike in Turkey.

Similarly, the streets of Bradford, Birmingham and other cities should not become another theatre of the Islamic revolution.

This is not an anti-immigration rant. Hundreds of thousands of foreigners have settled peacefully in Britain. I

have always believed immigration has enriched our society, despite the problems it has also brought.

But there are limits. Too many people who have been allowed to make their home in Britain are abusing our hospitality to the extent that they are threatening the stability and security of the nation.

Contempt

Only this week an Iraqi diplomat was able, with some confidence, to promise terrorist attacks in Britain if war breaks out in the Gulf.

That is because Iraqi terrorists are living openly in Britain, posing as either students or political refugees.

British citizenship has been freely granted to thousands of Muslim militants who hold our laws and traditions in contempt and wish to impose their culture on

us. We have become a soft touch, made easier by members of the white, middle-class race relations industry, eager to promote their own political aims.

There is evidence that the Kurdish and Turkish rioters were egged on by white, Left-wing agitators.

People dare not criticise the behaviour of immigrants for fear of being labelled racist.

That is why, for instance, Dr Kalim Siddiqui can call for the murder of another British citizen and escape prosecution.

It is why, if you live outside London, you may not have read about the Stoke Newington riot. It merited barely a mention in the national Press.

Yet imagine the coverage if 500 white Millwall fans had gone on the rampage for 16 hours, smashing windows, injuring 64 coppers and try-

ing to storm a police station. Exactly.

The Home Office is currently attempting to tighten up immigration restrictions after receiving 25,000 applications for political asylum in the past year.

Many of these refugees no doubt have a valid case. We have an obligation to find room for some of them. But they must agree to obey British law and respect British tradition.

Deport

Magistrates trying those arrested in the Stoke Newington riots could help by issuing, where appropriate, deportation orders on those found guilty.

And the Government should consider ways of revoking the citizenship of those who have been granted British passports.

If Kurds and Turks wish to take part in a Turkish strike they should do so in Istanbul.

SUN

7.1.91

Monerville beats bogus rap

TREVOR MONERVILLE received a filip to his New Year's celebrations after being cleared of obstruction and assault charges on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the arrest and six day incarceration which ended in his being rushed to hospital for an emergency brain operation.

Trevor's latest acquittal at Old Street Magistrates Court on New Year's Eve is the third since the 23 year-old Hackney local became the focal point of a campaign for police

accountability in east London after his detention in Stoke Newington police custody ended with an operation to remove a blood clot from his brain in January 1987.

Brent South MP Paul Boateng represented Trevor in court concerning charges arising from his arrest while he stood watching the police question suspects following a street altercation between two groups of local pub revellers last October.

Witnesses said the police began to concern themselves with steering onlookers away from the scene of the unrest.

Trevor was approached by one PC Edwards as he paused in the doorway of his father's electrical goods shop on his return from a journey to the local takeaway.

Trevor claims he was pushed in the chest and arrested when he objected.

The police claimed the defendant was abusive and later assaulted PC Edwards. Judge Myers rejected their testimony and dismissed all charges against Trevor.

The incident was one of several which took place in the area following the death of local PC Lawrence Brown from gunshot wounds last September.

"It's almost an everyday occurrence for us to see the police assault someone and then accuse them of assault," said a representative of the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA), which assisted Trevor with his defence.

"These arrests and trumped up charges against Trevor Monerville now seem beyond the boundaries of reason and one wonders when he will be allowed to go about his



■ Trevor Monerville

life in peace."

● The annual *We Remember* commemoration rally takes place this Saturday, January 12, the eighth anniversary of the tragic death of Colin Roach from shotgun wounds in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station. The rally takes place at 4.00pm outside Hackney police station and proceeds to Dalston and Stoke Newington police stations thereafter.

CT

8-1-91

Turkish strikers claim 'revenge attack'

Why did a peaceful solidarity protest by Turkish workers end in violence and mass arrests?

JUDY HIRST investigates

Hackney's Turkish and Kurdish community is still in a state of shock after 65 people were arrested, and four demonstrators hospitalised, during a day of protest called to support a general strike in Turkey.

Over 2000 Hackney garment workers backed the call for a one-day strike last Thursday. Many Turkish-owned cafes and other businesses were also shut down for the day. But violence erupted when police clashed with demonstrators who were picketing the clothing factories – and continued later, outside the Halkevi Turkish community centre, and Stoke Newington police station. A total of 25 people have been charged with public order offences, including riotous behaviour.

One bystander who was arrested, Pauline Psihogos, was out shopping when she saw six police vans and a large crowd outside the Halkevi centre: 'I saw one Turkish woman, who was trying to interpret, being threatened by a police officer', she said. By the time I got to Stoke Newington police station, the floor there was full of blood.'

Eyewitnesses allege that demonstrators were rugby tackled to the ground, and received severe beatings. Anyone with a camera was reported to have been a particular target. Mark Metcalfe, from the Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, claims that when around 150 people gathered outside the police station to demand the release of those arrested, the police charged them without prior warning: 'The officers in charge said right, you've got five minutes to disperse – and then steamed straight in.'



Kurdish protestor, Baki Ates, after last Thursday's confrontation with the police.

claimed. 'I tried to intervene, but was threatened and then arrested myself.'

Local police monitoring groups and Turkish community organisations claim that last Thursday was a 'revenge attack' by police, after the recent acquittal of four Turkish strikers arrested during a dispute at the Bacton Fashions factory in February. The Bow Territorial Sup-

port Group was on duty on both occasions, and some of their officers are currently being sued by the four Bacton workers.

Turkish community activists accuse local factory proprietors of calling in the police to break up what was a peaceful protest. 'All we wanted to do was support our brothers and sisters in Turkey, where

hundreds of thousands are out on strike against a brutal regime,' said Gazi Harmanci, chair of a local Turkish community group. There have also been complaints about the immigration status of those detained being checked out before they were released.

Stoke Newington police say that no unnecessary force was used against the demonstrators, who were given adequate warnings. 'We very much regret that the usually lawful Turkish Stoke Newington community allowed themselves to be infiltrated and agitated by a small group of clearly non-Turkish people,' said Stoke Newington's Chief Supt Clark. The majority of those charged appear at Highbury Magistrates Court on January 24.

● A community centre for Turkish and Kurdish refugees will find out this week if Hackney Council intends to go ahead and implement a High Court order to evict them. The Day-Mer centre on Cazenove Road, N16, provides for the welfare needs of over 600 refugees and their families. Community organisers squatted the centre's current premises when the Council refused to come up with either a grant or suitable accommodation for them. According to a spokesperson from Hackney Law Centre, the refugees have been driven into a corner: 'They've been given no time to find new premises. The Council has chosen the quickest method possible to evict them, and is even demanding that Day-Mer pays the borough £250 in legal costs.'

CITY LIMITS

10.1.91

Top cop hits out at demo leaders

A TOP Hackney policeman has attacked the organisers of a march against alleged police brutality as "an unrepresentative minority".

Up to 100 people will take to the streets tomorrow (Saturday) in protest at incidents in which people have died or been injured in police custody.

But Chief Supt Roy Clarke, head of Stoke Newington police, is criticising march organisers, the Hackney Community Defence Association, as representing nobody but themselves.

The HCDA will stage the annual torchlight "We Remember" march from Hackney to Stoke Newington police stations in support of people who have allegedly suffered police injustice.

In recalls, in particular, the deaths of

Colin Roach at Stoke Newington station eight years ago and of Tony Hassan at Dalston station three years ago.

The association claims there were 69 cases of police injustice in 1990, up by 125 per cent on 1989, and 80 per cent of incidents involved black people.

But Chief Supt Clarke said: "I feel it is very sad that people still wish to dwell on past events and don't look to the future."

The vast majority of the community was looking forward to the future together, but a small minority was trying to convince them its views were right, he explained.

"The only people they represent are themselves. I feel that as a group they have no credibility and therefore I do not intend to comment on their figures," he added.

Chief Supt Clarke welcomed the fact

that Hackney Council now felt the time was right to reinstate the police consultative committee and would take its seats again at the next meeting.

But the HCDA said it only claimed to represent those who had suffered from police injustice.

"Our support in the community has grown because of the acquittals in court and the numbers taking action against the police," said spokesperson Graham Smith.

"The 69 cases are just the tip of the iceberg. At least 10 new civil actions against Hackney police were started up this year and that is a significant number for a voluntary organisation like ours to take up."

"What is happening is that people are bearing the brunt of police injustice and they are becoming isolated with the council now making overtures to the police."

Coppers want expert firearms back-up Police make gun call over armed raids

by PAUL NEEDHAM

MORE armed police are needed to cope with growing numbers of shotgun-wielding criminals.

That is the claim of officers in Hackney who want changes to rules on police carrying guns to cope with growing numbers of criminals ready to use arms.

But they do not want to be armed themselves, despite the murder of Hackney PC Laurence Brown and a poll showing more than half of officers around the country back routine arming.

Sgt Bob Drew, local spokesman for the Police Federation, which represents lower-ranking officers, said best cops were frustrated at present restrictions which kept down numbers of available armed officers.

"The fear of the public is that you would have shoot-outs at the OK Corral,

but officers want the arms in the hands of a few, highly-trained officers," he said.

"There are not enough of these officers and arms are not available enough. What officers want is the confidence that if they are faced with firearms then they can call on experts very quickly."

At present, only very top ranking officers can give permission for cops to arm themselves, but police on the beat say it takes too long to do this in an emergency.

"The arms have got to be there just in case. The feeling is that officers don't have the confidence that the back-up is there. There's a delay and in that delay, an officer or a member of the public gets

injured." But Sgt Drew said he did not think local cops would go as far as to support routine arming of the police, although just over half of all officers questioned in a police magazine survey did.

Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clarke, was surprised at the poll's finding, but said the present back-up system was the best to keep public confidence.

And City Road-based Supt Gary Miller said he did not think many officers in the division were in favour of allowing the police to carry weapons.

Police action has smashed relations say Turkish group

HACKNEY'S Turkish leaders say last week's mass strike - which ended in hundreds of workers besieging Stoke Newington police station and 57 people being arrested - has scuppered good relations between the community and the borough's cops.

As the row rumbles on amid accusations of the police using heavy-handed tactics on a peaceful gathering, police watchdog group, the Hackney Community Defence Association, claim that the police are merely paying "lip service" to its pledge to improve its relationship with the community.

And they also accuse the Terrorism Support Group (TSG) of taking over from Stoke Newington cops in a "revenge attack" on Turkish and Kurdish workers, following a strike at Becton Fashions in Somerset Grove, Stoke Newington, last February, when four Kurdish men were arrested.

They were acquitted of riot and actual bodily harm against police officers, and are currently suing the Metropolitan Police.

But Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clarke, dismissed the revenge claims as "absolute rubbish" and said the police had become caught up in strife within the Turkish community.

The row broke out after hundreds of Turkish and Kurdish workers staged a one day strike on Thursday last week walking out of

Hackney's sweatshops in support of the general strike in Turkey where 50,000 miners have been on strike for six weeks.

They gathered at the Halkvi Community Centre in Stoke Newington Road where arrests were made followed by more violent scenes outside Stoke Newington police station.

Murtaza Jokas of the Union of Turkish and Kurdish workers, one of the eight groups which organised the strike, said: "It was a peaceful demo and the police attacked our workers."

Three face disorder charge

THREE men arrested during the violent clashes appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court on Friday facing charges including violent disorder and assaulting police officers.

All three - none of whom could speak English and had to be helped by an interpreter - were remanded on bail until next Friday.

A total of 57 people were detained by police and 27 have been bailed from Stoke Newington police station. Cautions were given to 21 others and no action was taken against five.

Four men are appearing at Old Street Magistrates' Court on January 24 on charges ranging from public order offences to assault and obstructing police. Another man was bailed to return to the police station.

A statement from the Halkvi Community Centre this week said it was not involved in organising Hackney's strike, but that it fully supported the miners' strike in Turkey.

"This incident has put a huge strain on relations between the police and the Turkish community."

And Mark Maccall of Hackney Trade Union Support Unit scathed reports in the national papers that trouble was caused by "outside agitators", pointing out the workers were almost all Turkish.

Chief Supt

Clarke told the Gazette: "Any suggestions of revenge attacks by the TSG is just absolute rubbish."

"We just had one officer on patrol but had to send in more men when we got calls from Turkish businessmen saying they were being threatened by striking workers."

"We very much regret that strife within the Turkish community involved us and I hope that there will not be long-standing damage in relations between the police and the Turkish community."

Youths are sentenced over attack after race bias demo

FOUR Asian youths involved in a violent disturbance were sent to a young offenders' institution after a top Old Bailey judge spoke of local racial disharmony.

They were at the scene when a lone white man was left fighting for his life after being savagely attacked by a 20-strong group of young Asians.

It took place after a Rights for Whites march, in which some British National Party members took part, from Bethnal Green police station to St. Stephen's Secondary School. The marchers were protesting over the stabbing of a white boy at the school.

After the march the victim, Peter Swinney, 41, was attacked after getting

out of his car when the windscreen was smashed as he drove home with his wife and son.

He was rushed to hospital after being stabbed repeatedly in the face and body when the crowd set upon him.

They also beat him with iron bars, three branches and a baseball bat in the attack at Ben Jonson Road, Stepney.

The youths, aged 16 to 18, were arrested soon afterwards.

Abdul Gofar was sentenced to 15 months after being convicted of causing actual bodily harm to Mr Swinney by punching him. He admitted violent disorder.

The other three were all sentenced to four months after being found guilty of violent disorder.

Maths Miah, 17, was cleared of attempted murder on directions of the judge, and was fined; Abdul Aftab and Abdul Hameed were both acquitted of causing grievous bodily harm.

Paying sentence Judge Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, said there was no suggestion any had caused the wounds.

He added: "I have no doubt at all that there is a background of considerable disharmony in the area and that is based on a racialised approach by a number of residents."

Mobile police station brought in to tackle red-light district

A PORTABLE police station in Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, is joining the fight to free the notorious red-light area of vice-girls and punters.

The 40-foot long "portacabin" outside St Joseph's Court near Holmdale Road will be open 24 hours a day from Monday for a two-week trial and is complete with an interview room and phone lines.

It is one of only two of its kind in the Metropolitan police area and is being set up in response to calls by the Amhurst Park Action Group for the police to crack down on prostitution and related crime.

An APAG campaigner accompanied by Hackney North and Stoke Newington MP Diane Abbott went to see Home Office Minister John Patten last year to complain that

they were sick and tired of herb-crawlers, used condoms on the streets and crime brought in by the street-girls.

In November, pensioner Alec Leslie died in hospital four months after being mugged in nearby Holmdale Terrace.

Pressure

Police say resident pressure has paid off. Inspector Arthur Scheffer of Stoke Newington police told the Gazette:

"It is a mobile police station with all the works. It is just like having the front office of Stoke Newington sick in Amhurst Park and is the result of the Amhurst Park Action

Group's request for a high profile police presence to deter prostitutes and their clients.

"Talking will still come from Stoke Newington, but this facility will enable residents to report on a 24-hour basis at that point," he said.

APAG campaigner Rabbi Abraham Hater welcomed the move. "We hope this will help rid the area of its vice and crime problems and it will be much appreciated," he said.

"Since Chief Superintendent Roy Clarke came to Stoke Newington relations between the police and the community have improved dramatically and we have seen dramatic improvements in the number of police on the road and a reduction in the numbers of herb-crawlers and prostitutes."

Fund for Pe's family closes at £11,500

THE FUND set up for the bereaved family of City Road copper Laurence Brown, who was gunned down on the streets of Hackney in August, has finally been wound up.

A total of £11,500 has been handed over to widow Janet and baby Emma, who were left without a husband and father after the 27-year-old constable was shot at point-blank range after being called to Orwell Court in Pomeal Road, Haggerston.

Fund organiser and ex-mayor of Hackney Betty Shanks said "I would like to thank everyone who so generously gave donations. The response was tremendous, and so many people contributed it has been impossible to thank everyone personally. The fund has now been closed, but the appeal has done a great deal for all those who worked with Larry and shows that people in Hackney care for those who try to serve them."

'Nazi' attack

RACIST vandals smashed windows and daubed "Jews Out" and Nazi swastikas on property belonging to a businessman in Jessam Avenue, Upper Clapton, in the early hours of Thursday morning.

A private security firm employed to protect three new luxury homes from squatters say windows in Alan Grossman's car and his home were smashed along with windows of their own van.

A security guard told the Gazette the homes had windows smashed in a previous attack two months ago.

HC
11.1.91

Stop police violence in Hackney



The head of Saturday's march through Hackney against police violence

'The youth are innocent' — says Bill Silcott

OVER two hundred protestors marched through the streets of Hackney on Saturday, condemning police violence in the East End borough.

The marchers shouted: 'Racist police off our streets', 'Under attack we fight back'.

Victims of police violence in Hackney include Michael Ferreira, Tunay Hussan, Simeon Collins, Asela Symms and Colin Roach.



RUDOLPH HAWKINS

who all died in Hackney police stations or after they had been in police custody.

Those that have been severely beaten include Gary Stretch, Trevor Monerville, and Raphael Joseph.

Hackney was also the scene for a very big police action during an anti-poll tax demonstration where over 60 arrests were made and countless injured.

Only last week the police were involved in fighting with Turkish and Kurdish workers, who took strike action in solidarity with the general strike in Turkey.

Nearly 60 workers were arrested and several were so badly beaten by the police that they were detained in hospital.

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The area is absolutely seething at the actions of the police and Saturday's torchlight demonstration is the fourth successive year of the march to remember the victims.

Outside Hackney Police Station, the march began with a rally which was introduced by Tony Price of Hackney Community Defence Association.

He explained that last year, HCDA dealt with 69 complaints against the local police force for cases of injustice. These include 59 against black workers and 21 against women, he added.

Price then referred to the case of Gary Stretch, who was so savagely beaten up by seven plain-clothes police officers outside a pub in Hoxton that he could no longer face living in London and moved out.

He continued: 'The seven police officers from City Road have been dismissed, but that is not good enough - they should be charged!'

'Police should be subject to the same laws as us,' he concluded.

Raphael Joseph spoke to News Line at the start of the rally. He was severely beaten by the police, 'to within an inch of my life'.

He said, 'We are human beings. We were born in this country to live not to be attacked by the police.'

'I am lucky to have survived,' he said.

'A month ago I was travelling with a friend and we stopped at a house fire. A woman was shouting about her baby being in the house. I managed to get into the house and rescued her 14-month-old child. I believe I was saved to save that child.'

'What we want is justice. I do not believe in violence. I do not want to remember what happened,' Joseph said referring to the slogan of the march, which was to 'Remember The Victims', but we have to. This could happen to anybody.'

Joseph spoke of the incident when the police beat him. 'I was begging for my life, but they kept on beating me. You do not treat a dog that way.'

'What if they had killed me? I have a two-month-old baby. What's the mother to say when the child asks what happened to daddy. "The police killed him"?'.

'People are still suffering



SAM MOORE

after these beatings. When the police are 10-20, and you are just one they attack you.

'They have to stop this, this is not the right way' concluded Joseph.

Rudolph Hawkins described the raid on his house by four police officers.

'When they finished I was in hospital with a broken hand and unconscious.'

'This has been going on for years, since I was a boy,' said Hawkins referring to the harassment of black youths and workers by the police.

'How long can we go on like this?' Hawkins asked.

'They are the people that are supposed to protect us, but there is one law for them and one law for us.'

Pat Maynard spoke about the harassment of black youth. Her son, Graham, is in Feltham prison.

Pat said, 'I speak on behalf of black parents whose children have been rounded up and held without charge. For us, this is a daily occurrence.'

'Lives are being lost. How many more young lives are going to be lost? That is my question.'

Hackney has one of the largest Poll Tax bills in the country, despite being the poorest borough. The opposition to the Poll Tax is massive.

A young campaigner against the Poll Tax, Sam Moore, spoke of the raid on his estate that the police carried out in relation to the events arising from the Trafalgar Square demonstration.

On June 21st 1990 I was raided at 6.00am by thirteen police because I was an anti Poll Tax activist. They kicked the door down

and searched my house for files.

'They subsequently dropped all charges relating to the anti Poll Tax demonstration but charged me with assaulting the first



CELIA STUBBS

policeman that came through my door in the raid.'

The next speaker was Celia Stubbs, the common-law wife of Blair Peach, who was killed on an anti-fascist demonstration in Southall 11 years ago.

She said, 'Blair Peach was killed 11 years ago by the Special Patrol Group (SPG) in Southall.'

'In spite of police investigations no one has ever been charged, although there were eleven eye-witnesses that saw Blair being beaten.'

'The police are using the methods that they have learnt on the streets of the

north of Ireland.'

'Since Blair died, a large number of people have died in police custody.'

The final speaker was Bill Silcott, the father of Winston Silcott who was sentenced for 30 years for the killing of PC Blakelock in the Tottenham uprising in 1985, without any evidence against him.

'In 1985 innocent people were arrested. Innocent people are in jail for life with no forensic evidence and no witnesses.'

Bill spoke of the police attack on the community after he uprising, when they arrested hundreds of youngsters 'and got them to say all sorts of things.'

'They put the three, Engin Raghip, Mark Braithwaite and Winston Silcott in jail. They have the wrong people in jail.'

'We keep up this protest for their release.'

'They are trying to separate the three cases, taking Engin Raghip's case to the Appeal court, when all these people in jail are innocent, like the Birmingham 6.'

'We want to have justice,' said Silcott. 'We want to have our kids and walk in the streets in peace and unity.'

After the rally, the march proceeded to Dalston police station, where it halted for a one-minute silence. A wreath was laid to commemorate all those who have died in police custody

From Dalston, the demonstration then made its way up to the new multi-million pound station in Stoke Newington.

This has been built on the site of the original building where eight years ago a young black youth, Colin Roach, was killed by a sawn-off shot gun in the station foyer.

The claim by the police that Colin killed himself has never been accepted by the local community.

Saturday's protest was concluded when Colin's mother laid a wreath at the police station wall, as de-



BILL SILCOTT

monstrators held another minute's silence.

'As Pat Maynard said: "We want this to stop" - which is the feeling on the local estates.'

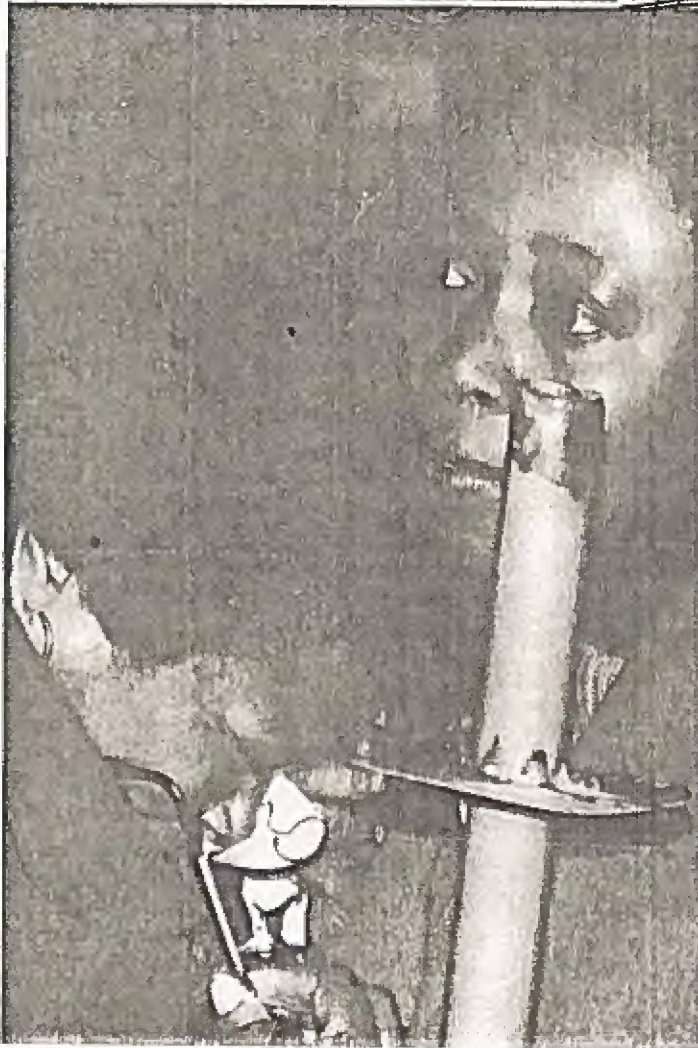
The message from the demonstration was clear for 1991: the community is going to put a stop to the frame-ups, beatings and deaths by the state.

NEWSLINE

13.1.91

Unhealing scar

14/1/91



GRIEF: Mother of the late Colin Roach being comforted by a friend after laying a wreath to the memory of her son at London's Stoke Newington police station on Saturday night as part of the eighth annual torchlight procession.

Mr Roach died in 1983 from shotgun wounds in the foyer of the police station. Police insisted that Mr Roach had committed suicide.

But controversy has continued to surround the case with allegations of a cover-up persisting.

PIC: Nigel Tanburn

MORNING STAR

14.1.91



■ LAST weekend Hackney's east London community took to the streets for the annual *We Remember* rally to commemorate the deaths of six people in the custody of the local constabulary over the past 20 years. Most particularly the community remembers Colin Roach (inset), the young man who lost his life to wounds inflicted by gunshot in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station, eight years to the day last Saturday, January 12. Leading the rally outside Hackney police station before moving onto Dalston and Stoke Newington stations were the Roach family, (from left to right) brother Darren, nephew Jermaine – born on the day his uncle died – and mother Pamela plus their friends and supporters. *Photo by Rod Leon/Hansib*

CT

15.1.91



Victims of police injustice in Hackney staged the fourth annual **WE REMEMBER** march last Saturday to commemorate the death of Colin Roach eight years ago, and to support others who have suffered at the hands of the police. A torchlight procession laid wreaths outside Stoke Newington

and Dalston police stations and heard some of those affected describe their experiences. The Hackney Community Defence Association, which organised the protest, dealt with 69 cases of injustice in 1990 – a 125 per cent increase on the previous year.

CITY LIMITS

17. 1. 91

REPRISAL FEARS AT IRAQI HQ

IRAQI families in Hackney are living in fear of their lives after right-wing bully-boys promised tit-for-tat retaliation if just one British soldier is killed or injured in the Gulf war.

by STEWART FOWLER

covered up their association logo and signboard with cardboard to make it harder for the thugs to identify their headquarters.

A spokesperson for the community group, who we haven't named to protect him, said: "All the threatening

phone calls and letters were anonymous, and included a lot of swearing and cursing.

"They tell us that our days are numbered, and if anyone gets hurt in the Gulf we'll pay for it. We've also been sent an 'official' Iraqi calendar, with all the pages ripped out after January 15 - the deadline Saddam Hussein was set to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Some Iraqi families here in Hackney are very frightened. They're scared to walk down the streets or open the door when someone knocks at their home."

Scotland Yard takes the reign of terror seriously enough to promise Special Branch protection if the attacks increase.

But the association actually helps Iraqis fleeing Saddam Hussein's cruel regime.

"We have campaigned against Hussein and his fascist state for years," said the spokesman.

"It's difficult to speak out because we all have relatives back in Iraq, and it is your family who are punished.

"It's very simple - they execute your father and brother, and rape your sisters.

"We are victims not only of Saddam Hussein, but of the British as well. It's Catch 22."

As Hackney prepared to do its bit in the Gulf war, hospitals went on standby, prayers for peace were said and campaigners from the borough who have gone to the Gulf in the hope of averting war are risking their lives by staying put in the firing line.

TURN TO PAGE FIVE FOR THE FULL STORIES



● The sign at the Dalston Iraqi centre disguised with cardboard after threatening letters and phone calls.

A steady stream of threatening letters and abusive phone calls has made life hell for staff and visitors at the Iraqi Community Association headquarters in Dalston.

Now workers are frightened that it is only a matter of time before petrol bombs are thrown at them instead of insults.

In desperation they have

Mobile police station sees vice girls flee



● PC Malcolm Horsup outside the mobile nick.

VICE GIRLS and kebab-crawlers are fleeing from a notorious red-light area thanks to a high-profile new "portable nick."

A mobile cop shop in Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, is winning the war against prostitution in the area, police and anti-vice campaigners have claimed.

The portable 24-hour police station, set up outside St Joseph's Court near Holmdale Road, opened on Monday for a fortnight's trial following a long campaign by the Amhurst Park Action Group (APAG).

Chief Inspector David Hudson, of Stoke Newington police, who is in charge of its operation, said the station appeared to have driven both prostitutes and punters out of the area.

"It seems to be working in that

stretch of the area. It is deterring kebab-crawling and arrests for prostitution are being made," he commented.

"There are still one or two prostitutes on side streets, but we didn't think it would totally scare them off. But that is now the most intensively policed area in the division."

Nine officers were assigned to tackling vice in that area, and if the two-week trial proved successful, the station could be brought back, he added.

Musiel Gordon, secretary of APAG, was in no doubt things were already better after their long fight for a police crackdown on prostitution and related crime.

"The area is much quieter. We feel it is helping and having an effect by deterring them. We have greater peace of mind," she said.

Crackdown on take-over of empty homes

Squatters given notice

SQUATTERS in Hackney look set to be kicked out of empty council flats and houses a lot quicker in future, following a decision to get tough by Town Hall bosses.

The number of squatters in the borough has been steadily increasing recently, and on some problem estates like Northwold Estate in Upper Clapton, more than 60 flats are occupied by non-tenants.

It can take over 12 months before an eviction order is issued by the civil courts, but it is not illegal to squat property as long as it has not already been allocated to a proper tenant.

But now Hackney Council want to evict squatters under the criminal law, which would make evictions a lot speedier.

If a legal tenant on the housing waiting list agrees to accept an offer of a squatted flat, the tenant becomes a "protected intending occupier" - and the police can be called in to turf the squatters out.

by STEWART FOWLER

So the council is thinking of pre-letting far more flats than they do at present, and intend to quickly repair empty flats and give them a facelift. If necessary to make them attractive to prospective tenants.

A recent report to the Stamford Hill and Upper Clapton district housing committee said: "This will mean that (council housing) allocation should be able to offer habitable properties far more quickly and effectively as they will no longer be offering large numbers of unfit properties which have been subject to extremely high refusal rates."

A spokesperson for

Hackney Council said: "This is one of many measures we're looking at to reduce the number of properties being squatted."

"The problem in the past, particularly with mass evictions, has been that as soon as we carry out the eviction, other people move in and we have to carry out the whole cycle again.

"Pre-letting a property is a valid means of speeding up the evictions, although there have been reservations on the part of our housing department because tenants themselves have to get involved in the legal process, which they are sometimes reluctant to do.

"No decision has been formally taken yet."

Peaceful conclusion to police brutality march

AN ANNUAL anti-police brutality protest passed off peacefully last weekend as campaigners marched through the streets of Hackney.

A crowd estimated at between 120 and 250 staged a torchlit rally and march from Hackney to Stoke Newington police stations in memory of victims of alleged police violence.

Organisers said the success of the event showed they were not "an unrepresentative minority," as a young policeman had said, but were giving a voice to victims.

But Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, repeated his view that the Hackney Community Defence Association did not reflect the attitude of people in the borough.

At a rally outside Hackney police station, half a dozen speakers told of their alleged experiences at the hands

Wreath laid to mark the death of man who died in police station foyer

of the police before the crowd, shadowed by 20-30 cops, began the torchlit march to Stoke Newington.

There, the mother of Colin Roach - the Hackney man found dead in the station foyer in 1983 - laid a wreath in memory of those claimed to have died or been assaulted by police.

Hackney Community Defence Association claimed up to 250 people had turned out to make the protest "a great

success," particularly with the anti-Gulf War rally in Trafalgar Square the same day.

Spokesperson Graham Smith said: "The policing of the march was not as aggressive as last year.

"It is important that these deaths are remembered. People who are attacked by the police are left in isolation, and this shows they are not alone.

"It is their chance to speak out and express their frustration."

Chief Supt Clark, who yet protesters' numbers at 120, said the march had been peaceful with no incidents.

And he repeated his view that the CDA did not reflect local attitudes: "Although I respect the family of Colin Roach, the feeling that people try to allege police violence against the evidence is not constructive."

Jewish leader moves to calm race hate fear

JEWISH community leaders are playing down fears of rising anti-Semitic attacks following two ugly incidents.

Racist vandals daubed swastikas on property and smashed windows in Nazi-style attacks in Shoreditch and Upper Clapton.

Two large swastikas were painted on the shop windows of the Marcus Harcourt insurance group in Shoreditch High Street.

And just last week a Jews Out slogan and swastikas were daubed and windows smashed at luxury homes in Jessam Avenue, Upper Clapton.

But a leading Jewish community spokesman, Rabbi Abraham Pinzer, head of the Yeshiva Hatorah School in Amhurst Park, said he considered the incidents separate

and isolated. "These sorts of things are disturbing, but it is something we are used to and live with. These incidents seem to be isolated as they are in different areas," he said.

Constantly vigilant

"We are constantly vigilant about the situation but we don't have any reason to be more concerned than in the past."

And Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, agreed. "I don't see any trend of anti-Semitic attacks," he said.

"They are isolated incidents, and I feel there is no orchestrated campaign against Jews in this area."

HC 18.1.91

Abusive posters lead to arrests

Family outrage at death smash verdicts

UNWANTED



JOHN McCAFFERTY
COUNCIL LEADER

MIKE CRAIG
CHIEF BAILIFF

TOMMY SHEPPARD
CHIEF BAILIFF

THESE SCUM ARE PLANNING TO USE BAILIFFS
AGAINST ORDINARY PEOPLE IN HACKNEY

GO ON - GIVE 'EM A CALL
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE POLL TAX



HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working with the Tories

● Part of the controversial poster. The Gazette has blanked out the councillors' addresses and telephone numbers to prevent further harassment.

HACKNEY'S heated anti-poll tax campaign has suffered a serious setback after three protestors were arrested for pasting up "threatening" posters which blasted Town Hall bosses.

The abusive posters show photographs of Hackney Council leader John McCafferty, deputy leader Tommy Sheppard and finance chief Mike Craig, reveal their home addresses and phone numbers, and call them "scum" for using bailiffs to collect the poll tax.

Designed in the style of Wild West outlaw "Wanted" posters, they claim the top council trio "have informed us they are willing to take personal calls and visits any time of the day or night. We'll leave it to your imagination to give them what they deserve."

Justin Tibbury, 29, of Belmont Court, Holmleigh Road Estate, Stamford Hill, Sean Fitzpatrick, 22, of Stamford Hill, and Darren Crowley, 21, of Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, appeared at Highbury Magistrates' Court on Monday.

'Inflammatory'

They are charged under Section 4 of the Public Order Act, that the posters "were threatening, abusive, or insulting, and intended to cause a person to believe that immediate unlawful violence would be used against him."

Magistrate Mr Geoffrey Wicks called the posters "inflammatory" and banned all three from possessing paper or glue "under any circumstances" as part of their bail conditions.

Up to 10,000 of the posters have already been printed and distributed to anti-poll tax groups, and hundreds have been fly-posted at sites across the borough.

Even before this latest attack, council leaders received threatening and abusive phone calls about the poll tax.

Commenting on the arrests, Cllr McCafferty said: "If people wish to protest about the poll tax then they should pick the right enemy. The tax was introduced by the government, and Hackney Council is legally required to collect it."

But protestors remain defiant. John Blake, of Hackney Anti Poll Tax Action, said: "As this so-called socialist Labour council sends in the bailiffs they must expect this sort of thing. We are absolutely unrepentant."

The defendants are due to appear in court again on Monday, February 4.

OUTRAGED relatives have slammed court verdicts on two men killed in a high-speed police chase through the streets of Hackney.

Driver Peter Wynne, who was over the alcohol limit and had taken cocaine, was accidentally killed in a smash in which local Grange Hill star Lee MacDonald had a miraculous escape, an inquest jury found on Wednesday.

And John Vella, a passenger in the stolen Peugeot GTi which cops had chased to the junction of Hackney Road and Cambridge Heath Road last June, was unlawfully killed, the jury at St Pancras Coroner's Court decided.

But family and friends of Mr Vella, 22, of Brodlove Lane, Stepney, and of Mr Wynne, 19, of Ronald Street, Stepney, shouted "fix, fiddle!" at the verdicts, and later claimed they had been prevented from giving evidence.

Lee MacDonald (alias Zamo), of Shepherdess Walk, Hoxton, who was thrown 50 feet through a van wind-screen in the smash, told the court he had needed 20 head stitches and had not worked since.

Pc Peter Jordan, of Stepney police, said the GTi raced off at over 70 mph after he started following it on seeing neither man was wearing a seatbelt. The GTi jumped red lights and smashed into Mr MacDonald's van.



Policeman Russell gets a gold

A POLICE sergeant based at Hackney police station has been honoured with a medal for 22 years' exemplary service to the force.

Sgt Russell Bayfield, 41, was presented with a long service and good conduct medal by the Deputy Commissioner, Sir John Dellow, at a special ceremony at the Peel Training Centre, Hendon, recently.

Sgt Bayfield, who was born in Great Yarmouth, joined the Metropolitan Police as a cadet in 1966.

He has been based at several stations and served with the former Special Patrol Group in Leytonstone. He was promoted to sergeant in 1980. Sgt Bayfield, who has two sons by a former marriage, is engaged to a WPC based at Stoke Newington.

HC

25.1.91



● Det Insp Roger Williams shows some of the items seized in the recent police drugs raid.

Commendations for police seven

SEVEN detectives and officers from Hackney and Stoke Newington police stations have been given top awards for their work in solving a vicious murder and smashing a child sex ring.

The detectives have received special commendations from top cop Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor after months of painstaking and difficult police work ended in long jail sentences for the offenders.

Det Sgt Keith Butler and Pcs John Ford, Martin Redhead and Stephen Neville, all based at Stoke-Newington, were responsible

for tracking down the killer of a middle-aged mum. Her body was found half-naked and stripped of all forms of identity in the churchyard at St John's church in Queens Drive, Finsbury Park, in September, 1989.

It took eight days to identify the dead woman. A man was charged with her murder two months later and found guilty by an Old Bailey jury.

The policemen's citation reads that "the case rested entirely on circumstantial evidence and the effort and

ability of the investigating officers."

Three other detectives were congratulated for their part in an "extremely delicate and difficult investigation," which led to a gang of paedophiles being jailed and also revealed vital evidence about the horrifying murder of 14-year-old Hackney schoolboy Jason Swift.

Det Con Steven Vanhinsbergh, Det Con Tucker and Det Sgt Edward Boardman, who were with Hackney CID at the time of the investigation in May, 1988, smashed a child sex ring that had assaulted children as young as five.

Drug factory bust shows spiral in crack use

THE seizure of 100 crystals of crack in a raid last week is proof the drug has reached Hackney's streets from the ghettos of America.

Until recently Scotland Yard claimed only small amounts of crack - a cocaine derivative more addictive than heroin - had been found in the capital.

But detectives at Stoke Newington police station have revealed a sharp rise in the number of arrests for possession of crack in recent months.

Two people have been charged with supplying the drug after a surprise raid by 30 officers from Stoke Newington on a crack factory in a fortified council house in Sandringham Road, Dalston, last week.

They recovered over 100 foil-wrapped crystals of crack, along with a drug-making apparatus and a bundle of cash.

by RUSS LAWRENCE

It brings to over a dozen the number of separate arrests for crack in recent months.

But within 48 hours of last week's successful drugs bust, new dealers had replaced those arrested and they were selling crack on the same streets.

"They are attracted by the huge profits that can be made," said Det Insp Roger Williams.

"You don't have to have a GCSE in chemistry to convert cocaine into crack. A gram of cocaine with a street value of £200 can be worth

double the value if turned into crack in what is a relatively simple process."

Police fear an increase in drug-related crimes if crack becomes as big a problem in Hackney as it is in the US.

"You hear horror stories from the States about how violent users become under the influence of the drug, and that sometimes it takes six or seven cops to arrest a suspect because of the incredible strength it gives them," added Det Insp Williams.

Police have set up a 24-hour telephone hotline for the public to ring in strict confidence with information about drug dealers, tel: 071 488 7164.

HG

1. 2. 91

POLICE UNDER FIRE OVER DEATH CRASH

Pub gov'nors pull together to beat crime

PUB gov'nors are getting their act together to beat troublemakers and knock crime on the head in Hackney - and they want other publicans to join them.

There are already a number of different Pubwatch schemes up and running in the borough, and they've proved to be a roaring success. Members meet regularly to tackle any problems, such as the recent spate of dud £10 notes that have been circulating.

They also run a Pubwatch

by STEWART FOWLER

"early warning system." When troublemakers strike at one pub, the gov'nor turfs them out and then phones other publicans to warn them the gang could be on its way over to them.

There's close liaison with the police, who advise them on different issues and are quick to appear on the scene if they're needed.

Inspector Mick Reddy, of Hackney police station, said: "We usually meet about once a month and discuss problems that have come up. For

example, we give publicans help and advice on how to spot drug dealers in their pubs and how to tackle them.

"The scheme has been a great success so far, and has been welcomed by the publicans who attend. We'd like to see more people getting involved."

The next Pubwatch meeting takes place at the Prince Edward pub in Wick Road, Hackney Wick, on Wednesday, February 13, at 3.30pm. For more information, phone Insp Reddy on 071-488 7225.

Inquest jury returns unlawful killing verdict on 77-year-old victim of high-speed chase

A HACKNEY pensioner who died in a horror smash when her car was rammed by police during a high-speed chase was unlawfully killed, an inquest has decided.

The shock verdict has led to calls for police pursuit rules to be toughened up, amid fears that strict guidelines are being flouted. At least 12 people, including one policeman, were killed in similar crashes in London last year.

May Bartlett, a 77-year-old widow of Manor Road, Stoke Newington, was being driven by her son to a day out at the seaside when the police car ploughed into the side of their Vauxhall Cavalier in Enfield last September, sending her hurtling through the rear window.

by STEWART FOWLER

She died instantly of multiple injuries. A jury at Hammersmith Crown Court on Tuesday heard the police driver, Pc Michael Burton, admit that the deadly chase only began when he decided to stop a Ford Cortina because "the two people in the car were quite scruffily dressed and I felt it was a car commonly used in crime."

He went on: "I said to my colleague 'It looks as though it's worth a stop.' It was over the speed limit and I accelerated after it."

But he revealed that he didn't bother switching on his emergency warning lights or siren throughout the chase because there was not much traffic on the road and "the driver would not have realised I wanted him to stop if I had put them on."

The police car was on its way to Tottenham for reinforcements when it spotted the Ford Cortina, which has never been traced.

But the dead pensioner's only son, Donald, 42, said police should think long and hard before any high speed chase in future.

Speaking after the inquest, he said: "It's not a crime to drive a car looking scruffy."

"I'm a law-abiding person and if someone breaks the law I'm all for them being caught, but I don't expect police to tear along a road without sirens or lights putting innocent lives at risk."

Question

"The police didn't look good in court. Eyewitnesses didn't see any Ford Cortina and the question must be asked: Why didn't the police take down its registration number?"

The jury returned an 8-2 majority verdict of unlawful killing.

The Crown Prosecution Service are not pressing charges. It has not yet been decided whether the police driver will face an internal disciplinary hearing.

Solidarity

MARTIN Waller, from Hackney Community Defence Association, will be one of the guest speakers at the National Solidarity Conference tomorrow (Saturday) at Conway Hall in Holborn. The meeting, from 11am to 5pm, will discuss "police attacks and the right to demonstrate."

Refugees' demo falls on deaf ears

WAR drums sounded in Mare Street this week as angry Kurdish refugees evicted from a community centre by Hackney Council took their traditional-style of protest to the Town Hall.

The council say they have already done enough for the borough's 3,000-plus Kurds who came here to escape torture and oppression in 1965, and refuse to be intimidated by tough tactics.

Over 150 banner-waving demonstrators chanted and sang Kurdish folk songs and banged a traditional Davul drum, while police guarded the front entrance of the Town Hall on Monday.

They were protesting at the eviction of Day-Mer, a refugee support and advice group with 600 members, from a house in Cazenove Road, Stoke Newington, where they had been squatting since November.

Day-Mer was shut down after a dawn raid by police and council



officials on Monday. "Everything has been locked up, all our documents, telephones and photocopies are in there," Day-Mer secretary, Kadra Bozdoglu, told the Gazette.

"This problem has been going on for over a year," he added, "they said they would give us some premises but they haven't."

A council spokesperson said they were already doing enough for the Kurdish refugees and

would not be intimidated by demonstrations.

"We have a lot of places in the borough where they can go for help, like the Haklavi Centre, and many other places round the borough that provide translation services."

"We have already offered them an old library site in Howard Road and we have already bent over backwards to get them temporary accommodation," she said.

HG 8.2.91

Police seek role in schools

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE police should have a greater role in the classroom, the acting commissioner of the Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

Launching a schools initiative, Sir John Dellow said education had never been only about the three Rs, but about preparation for life.

He said he hoped that a partnership with teachers would lead to greater police involvement in schools. "It's about building sound relationships with young people. Quite simply, it's about crime prevention in its

broadest terms," said Sir John, who is deputising for Sir Peter Imbert, the Commissioner, during his illness.

A new schools resource pack and data base have been produced to increase the police contribution to the classroom and to suggest to teachers ways in which the police could contribute to work on curriculum subjects.

Chief Superintendent Sally Hubbard said the police believed in "a need for us to buy into the core curriculum. It's in all our interests to have the next generation rejecting crime as an unacceptable ethos."

Sir John commended the

police project pack, *Keeping the Peace*, which covers such topics as individual responsibility, the burden of proof, punishment, and crime deterrence.

The National Union of Teachers said the resources pack and data base had been made with the help of teachers. It stressed that it was the responsibility of individual schools to determine the extent of police involvement.

Martin Johnson, of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said: "We oppose teachers giving up responsibility to police officers. It has to be clear that the teacher is in charge."

GUARDIAN

22.2.91

Borough is split as crime goes up

STREET crime in Stoke Newington is soaring and break-ins are rising, new crime figures released this week reveal.

But the southern half of the borough is getting safer following arrests of nearly 100 drug-pushers and a crackdown on street muggings.

Hackney's north-south crime divide is highlighted in figures for last year, which show total recorded offences in the borough up five per cent, though attacks on properties are rising faster.

Police claim they show Hackney is a relatively safe place, and the police watchdog says many residents now feel less vulnerable, although muggers' paradises still remain.

Overall violence against people fell slightly, and total sex offences and robberies were down five per cent, but burglaries rose by nearly 10 per cent, and snatch thefts by five per cent.

Stoke Newington solved less than half of sex or violent offences, but improved to seven per cent of robberies, while Hackney and City Road cleared up 55 per cent of sex offences.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, of Hackney police, said street crime in the southern half of the borough was down 16 to 18 per cent following a series of crackdowns and arrests of nearly 100 drug-pushers.

"The reality is that the public feel the streets are safer. The chances of being a victim of street crime are very slim. Hackney is a relatively safe place in which to live and work," he said.

Police on stand-by as squatters evicted

POLICE were on hand to stop trouble as workmen used sledgehammers to evict the last of the squatters from Hillcot House in Haggerston on Monday.

The notorious flat-block, the last surviving building from the old Stonebridge Estate, is about to be demolished. All council tenants were rehoused before Christmas, but before demolition could go ahead a handful of squatters had to be evicted.

Bailiffs wearing protective suits and face-masks swooped on the ageing flats first thing in the morning, using sledgehammers to smash down front doors.

All the squatters left peacefully, carrying their few possessions, and there were no arrests. Officials then ripped out any remaining gas and electricity meters from all the flats, and took all the doors off their hinges.

There was nothing left at Hillcot House to remind residents that it had once been visited by the Queen Mum in the 1930s. The building had become a haunt for prostitutes and drug dealers, with virtually all the flats smashed up by vandals.

HC 22.2.91

New battle for acquitted man

A SEVEN month ordeal ended for Mervyn Martin last week as the Inner London Sessions Crown Court acquitted him of all charges related to a police drugs raid.

Mr Martin has been remanded in custody since the July 1990 raid on his Hackney home which concluded with his arrest on serious charges concerning illegal drugs.

Judge Clark had directed the jury to find Mr Martin not guilty of supplying heroin at the onset of the two week hearing.

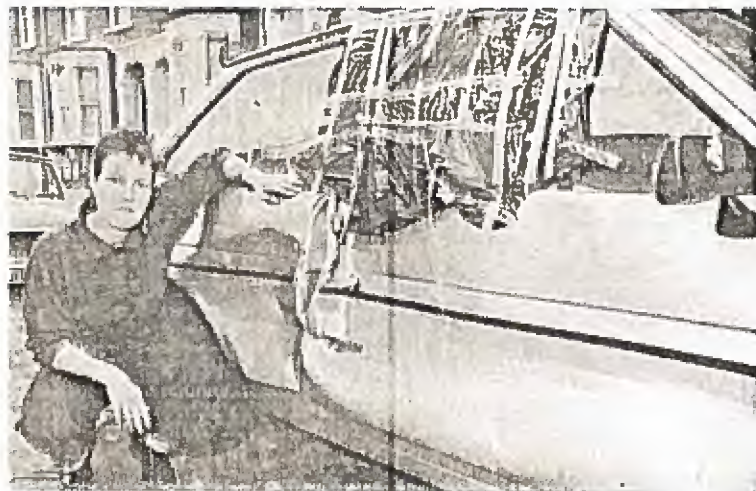
Last week the Crown Prosecution's case concerning allowing his home to be used as a drugs factory and allowing narcotics to be distributed from his home collapsed as the police claimed they were "unable to find" the star witness who was originally arrested in Mr Martin's flat on the night of the raid.

However, liberty brings more obstacles for Mr Martin to surmount. His home was gutted in an arson attack during his enforced absence and he is now homeless.



■ Mervyn Martin - his nightmare is not over yet

CT 26.2.91



■ Mary Crampsie surveys the damage after police car chase.

Mary cops for a packet

A POLICE car chase has left an innocent bystander with a wrecked car and a £75-plus bill for towing it to a garage and parking it overnight.

To make things worse the car's owner, former Hackney councillor Mary Crampsie, only has third-party insurance so she is worried she will have to fork out for the damage.

The crash happened when Mary, from Sigdon Road, was sitting at traffic lights in her Ford Fiesta at the junction of Amhurst Road and Pembury Road just before midnight on Saturday. A car slammed into her, carried on without stopping and was followed by a police car.

"I lagged down another police car and they offered to tow my car to a garage because they were worried

about the radio and things being stolen.

"Towing fee and storage charge for one night was £75.90.

"The police car that was chasing never bothered to stop to see if I was all right. The officers who did stop didn't tell me I would have to pay for the tow truck. When I got in touch with my insurers they said it was nothing to do with them because I am only on third party. The process section at Hackney police said they didn't know anything about the incident," she said.

The only comfort a Hackney police spokesman could offer was that Mary should write in to Hackney police station with details of the incident and these would be forwarded to the Scotland Yard accident claims branch.

Councillors turn up to first police group meeting

LABOUR councillors made their own small bit of history when they turned up and sat on the Hackney Police and Community Consultative group for the first time, and heard Hackney's top cop announce he'll be leaving the borough for good very soon.

Ever since it was first set up Labour councillors have snubbed the consultative group, but agreed to the U-turn late last year. Now councillors Ken Hanson, Medlin Lewis, Anne St Clair Miller, Saleem Siddiqui and mayor Shuja Shaikh, the mayor, will be attending meetings regularly.

Their first meeting, on Thursday last week at Roots Pool Development Association off Arcola Street, Dalston, heard Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill - the top man at Hackney and City Road police stations - announce he is to leave the borough on Monday, April 8.

He is to go on a six-month training course for senior commanders at Bramshill Police College, and won't be returning to Hackney. Instead, he will be replaced by a policeman of equivalent rank from another London borough.

Despite the strained relationship between the consultative group and Town Hall bosses in the past, the Labour councillors were welcomed.

Group chair Betty Blomfield said: "We were all very pleased to see them come. We all have to work together if we are to achieve a reduction in the high crime rate in the borough."

HC

1-3-91

Muted protest as poll tax set

EXPECTED fireworks turned into a damp squib as Hackney Council set a poll tax of £462 this week in scenes a far cry from last year's mass riot.

As a 350-strong crowd, watched by 200 police officers, demonstrated at the Town Hall, councillors cut next year's community charge by £37, barely halted by occasional heckling.

But police, council and shopkeepers took no chances, boarding up shop windows and the housing services department, and holding riot control officers in reserve to avoid a repeat of last year's street violence, looting and mass arrests. There were no arrests this year.

Meanwhile, hundreds of striking teachers and angry parents protested on Wednesday afternoon against £10million of education cuts which will mean at least 80 posts lost, school meal price hikes, higher college fees and new play centre charges.

Anti-poll tax campaigners denied they were disappointed at the low turnout, including just seven people in the public gallery, claiming most people knew the poll tax was being abolished and they weren't paying anyway.

Council leader John McCafferty told members the new £257million budget would put spending up by nine per cent, including an extra £1million on street cleaning, £1.2million on teacher recruitment and £2.2million on housing the homeless.

It was "a guarantee of financial stability through the year," avoiding poll tax capping while protecting jobs, and over 90,000 of Hackney's 130,000 adult population could get large reductions in their bills.

Deputy leader Tommy Sheppard pledged: "No one will be sent down to the unemployment queues as a result of this budget."



● Police guard the entrance to the Town Hall as the poll tax is set inside.

But Tory leader Joe Lobenstein, whose £431 alternative poll tax, cutting the women's unit, race relations, nuclear and police units, was defeated, said Labour was using 20 per cent extra government money to fund the £37 per person cut.

Liberal Democrat leader Colin Readle, whose £399 poll tax that cut Town Hall

bureaucracy was also rejected, said Hackney folk were caught between the hammer of the Tory government and the dead hand of the Labour council.

● Labour poll tax non-payer Paul Foley told the demo he was ashamed to be a member of a party colluding with the tax and abstained on the budget vote.

HC

8-3-91



New council powers aim to put squatters on the retreat

POLICE were on hand in case of trouble when Hackney Council's new action plan to crack down on squatters swung into action at the Stamford Hill Estate.

Workmen used crowbars and hammers to break into flats (see photo on the left) before removing all the possessions they found there and changing the locks to prevent them being re-squatted.

A total of 30 flats were the target for mass eviction by today (Friday), with at least seven flats in Malmes-

bury and Wicklow Houses the first to go on Thursday morning of last week. Further evictions are set to follow.

The crackdown is the latest attempt by Town Hall bosses to discourage squatters from moving in to council property in the borough - and this time they are confident they will succeed.

Council housing chiefs are now using the Criminal Law Act to get rid of squatters. In the past, an order had to be obtained from a civil court before evictions could take place, and this took up to 12 months.

Now they can evict within 48 hours WITHOUT a court order, if people on the waiting or transfer lists sign a tenancy agreement on a flat which is currently squatted - making them a Protected Intending Occupier.

A council spokesperson said: "We tell them to leave, and if they don't then the police have the power to evict them. It is now our policy to use this on a large scale against squatters where there are no children involved."

But the evicted squatters say they have nowhere else to live and that

their possessions, including beds, furniture, and clothes, were simply thrown over the balconies onto skips.

Sharon, an unemployed 25-year-old who had lived on the estate for two years, said: "I'm forced to squat because I can't afford to rent somewhere. I can either move in to an empty flat or sleep rough on the streets."

"That was my home. I was woken up by police and council workers, and given half-an-hour to get out. If we can't move our possessions somewhere else in that time, then they're dumped in a skip."

Stamp out crime!

TV star Graham Cole swapped roles from being a small screen boy in blue this week to help "stamp out" crime in Hackney.

Graham - Po Stamp in "The Bill" - stretched out the long arm of the law and welcomed the public to a major crime prevention exhibition at the Town Hall.

The exhibition, jointly organised by the police and Hackney Council, featured displays by the borough's victim support scheme, crime prevention panel, security manufacturers and other groups.

Council leader John McCafferty said it was crucial to involve the local community in the fight against crime, which the police and the council were already committed to.



● TV cop Graham Cole adds his support to the anti-crime exhibition.

Volunteers wanted on parade

WANTED - volunteers to line up in police identity parades.

Yes, the long arm of the law is stretching out for YOU and the boys in blue want you to help them with their inquiries!

City Road police station wants to build up a special index of volunteers willing to make up numbers in an identity parade who can be called to the station with

just a phone call - rather than coppers having to go out on the streets looking for people to take part!

Don't worry, there's no chance of a witness mistaking you for the suspect and you being whisked off to a police cell.

"People always worry they'll be picked out. But even if they are absolutely nothing will happen, as they are obviously not the suspect," said Det Sgt Debbie

Hardy of City Road nick.

"This is simply to make the system more efficient. We want to hear from volunteers of all ages, appearances and nationalities."

And the good news is that you get £4 for your trouble and, who knows, maybe even a cup of tea!

Anyone who is interested should contact Inspector Terry Herbert at City Road police station on 071 485 5375.

Vote them out!

AFTER years of Hackney Council refusing to co-operate with the government and police in the fight against crime, regardless of the consequences to the local people, suddenly Cllr "Law and Order" McCafferty has decided that it has always been the council's policy to get tough on crime (Gazette, March 8).

He states that he is now "committed to working closely with the police" and that we are all invited to visit the crime prevention exhibition at Hackney Town Hall.

In this spirit, I would like to suggest to local people an extremely efficient method of "crime" prevention which will put an end to a Godfather-style of manipulative community management - vote Senator McCafferty and his associates out of office. - JERRY PARIS, DALSTON (FULL ADDRESS SUPPLIED).

Police sprayed in raid

FOUR police officers - two in plain clothes - were sprayed in the face with CS gas as they swooped to make a drugs-linked arrest in Stamford Hill on Thursday of last week.

Two undercover detectives were taken to Homerton Hospital but were released after treatment, and two uniformed officers were slightly injured in the mid-morning attack in Amhurst Park.

Scotland Yard would say only that the four officers, from North London, were squirted in the face as they went to arrest a man suspected of a drugs offence. A man was later being quizzed at Stoke Newington police station.

HC 15.3.91

Irishmen freed as appeal is allowed after new evidence

David Pallister

SIX Irishmen viltified for nearly 17 years as Britain's biggest mass murderers were freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday to a rapturous and emotional reunion with their families outside the Old Bailey and applause from hundreds of well-wishers.

Their moment came at 3.30pm when Lord Justice Lloyd peered over his bifocals and said that "in the light of the fresh evidence which has been made available since the last hearing in this court, your appeals will be allowed and you are free to go".

Relatives and friends of the Birmingham Six in the public gallery leapt to their feet and erupted in a shout of victory.

The six men, who had sat quietly through nine days of evidence, jumped up, reaching over into the packed courtroom to shake the nearest hands. "Now it's our turn," said Paddy Hill, thumping the dock.

Half an hour later, amid embraces and tears from wives and daughters, the men, who were jailed for life in August 1975 after 21 people were killed by bombs in two Birmingham pubs, spoke briefly.

An angry Mr Hill shouted: "For 16½ years we have been used as political scapegoats. The police told us from the start we did not do it. They told us they didn't care who had done it. They told us we were selected and they were going to frame us for it and just to keep the people in there happy." Mr Hill went on, stabbing his finger at the court building behind him. "I don't think them people in there have got the intelligence or the honesty to spell the word justice, never mind dispense it. They're rotten."

Billy Power shouted above the noise of the crowd: "First, I would like to know why. Why is it that Judith Ward is still in prison and we are released? There are many more people, both Irish and English, still wrongfully behind bars, including the Tottenham Three and



the Bridgewater Four." (Judith Ward was jailed for life in 1974 after a bomb on a soldiers' coach on the M62 near Bradford killed 12 people.)

Later, at a party at the Columban Fathers' Hostel, north London, Gerry Hunter said the Six did not want revenge, only to see wrong punished. But, "if hanging had been in force, there are many people who would have hanged, including ourselves. We would not be sitting here tonight."

Hugh Callaghan said prison had not made him bitter: "Now I am free, I know I can't make up for those lost years. I know I have a whole new set of problems ahead of me, like becoming one of the family again."

The decision of the Court of Appeal, which will give its reasons later, was followed by a statement in the Commons by Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, who announced a Royal Commission to examine the criminal justice system.

In the avalanche of reaction to the men's release, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, caught the sense of mixed emotions: "My delight at the outcome is tinged with sadness that it has taken so long for the convictions to be quashed."

The Bishop of Derry, Edward Daly, who sat through the appeal, said the case had damaged Anglo-Irish relations. "Ultimately we knew the truth would have to come out and

thank God it has," he added.

Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South and the long-term campaigner on the men's behalf, said there was little evidence politicians, the police and the judiciary had learned from one of Britain's gravest miscarriages of justice. "If any lesson has been learned, it is that you mustn't get caught," he added.

Earlier in the day, the men listened to Graham Hoal, counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions, argue there was "powerful evidence" that John Walker was "if not a brigadier, a quartermaster" in the IRA.

He quoted Lord Lane, who said at the previous appeal: "The further one delves into Walker's case, the clearer it becomes that he was deeply involved with the McDade gang and with the bombing."

Mr Hoal suggested that in a new trial, the other men would be seen to be so closely bound up with Mr Walker that they too would be found guilty.

He again urged the court to find the convictions unsatisfactory but not unsafe, even though the Director of Public Prosecutions has chosen not to rely on the scientific and police evidence against them.

"It is the respondent's wish and confident expectation," he said, "that at the end of this hearing in this court, not only will justice have been done, but also those who have eyes and genuinely wish to see, will have seen it to be done."

Mr Hoal's submissions were rejected by defence lawyers Michael Mansfield, QC, and Lord Gifford, QC. Mr Mansfield said: "If this case were to start tomorrow, the Crown would not be able to enter the court, and it's extremely unlikely there could be a conviction." The Crown, he said, was trying to suggest a verdict not of guilty or not guilty, but of "not very guilty".

Comparing Mr Hoal in an emperor without clothes, Mr Mansfield accused the Director of Public Prosecutions of trying to re-prosecute the case. With the scientific and police evidence now unreliable, there was nothing left, he said.

Lord Gifford said the law could not recognise two categories of appeal, one star for unsatisfactory and two stars for unsafe. The only right thing to do was to allow the appeals and "by doing so express our society's deep regret to these men that it has taken so long for this injustice to be rectified."

Inquiry into flawed justice

John Carvel and Michael White

IN A SWIFT attempt to defuse the political repercussions of the Birmingham Six case, Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced the first Royal Commission of the Conservatives' 12 years in power — a sign of the greater flexibility of John Major's administration and the Government's sensitivity to criticism that English justice has been shown to be flawed.

The commission will undertake a two-year inquiry into every aspect of the system from the time a suspect is arrested to arrangements for dealing with alleged miscarriages of justice once normal appeal rights have been exhausted.

Although it is prompted by fear of wrongful convictions, its terms of reference will permit tough recommendations, including curtailment of the right to silence which some ministers regard as a questionable liberty. The commission will be chaired by Lord Runciman of Doxford, an academic sociologist and businessman.

His appointment marks a shift of political style since Mrs Thatcher's departure from Downing Street. She believed governments should

decide what to do and depised her predecessors' tendency to pass problems for time-consuming consideration by groups of the good and the great. Her supporters recalled the remark credited to Harold Wilson that "Royal Commissions take minutes and spend years".

Mr Baker told the Commons the review would be wide-ranging and thorough but should try to complete its work in two years.

The initiative was planned by the then Home Secretary, David (now Lord) Waddington, in case the convictions of the Six were overturned. It gained Royal Commission status after Mr Major became Prime Minister.

Mr Baker said suspects were now better protected than in the 1970s. Reforms have included controls on police interrogations, tape recorded interviews, new rules of evidence on confessions, an independent Crown Prosecution Service, extension of the Court of Appeal's power to order retrials and improved quality control over forensic science work.

"Our criminal justice system deals perfectly well with the overwhelming majority of cases," Mr Baker added. But a review was needed to minimise the possibility of other miscarriages.

It will consider the management of a police investigation and the role of the prosecutor; the role of expert witnesses, particularly forensic scientists and the reliability of scientific evidence; the right to silence in criminal proceedings; a possible role for examining magistrates which might introduce an inquisitorial element into the adversarial system of English justice; appeals procedures and the investigation of alleged miscarriages, including the role of the Home Secretary.

Sir John May's inquiry into the overturned convictions of the Guildford Four and the Maguire's will be asked to concentrate on the individual cases. The wider issues raised should be contributed to the commission on which Sir John will sit.

Mr Baker said he will consider compensation for the Six. Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said the case illustrated "a fundamental weakness in our judicial system" and urged faster remedial action.

It is the first such commission since Sir Cyril Phillips was appointed in 1977 to review criminal procedure. His committee took four years to produce a report which led to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

GUARDIAN

15-3-91

Royal Commission guidelines are set out

John Carvel
Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Office has allocated a budget of £2 million to Lord Runciman, chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which was announced on Thursday after the release of the Birmingham Six.

This appears to be enough to mount a substantial programme of original research on legal systems in England, Scotland and abroad, but is worth less after inflation than the £1.2 million spent by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure from 1977 to 1980.

Lord Runciman made no comment about how he intends

to approach the job and is expected to take several weeks to decide his strategy. Whitehall insiders said this will be the key period for determining the shape of the report, which Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, wants delivered in two years.

Interest groups which leave their representations until their evidence is invited may find they have acted too late.

James Addison, an assistant secretary from the Home Office, was appointed secretary to the commission, and Mr Baker has said that Sir John May, chairman of the inquiry into the Guildford Four and Maguire cases, will be a member. But no other names were announced yesterday.

The broad investigation into the English judicial system is expected to bring a moratorium on most government initiatives in the field.

The commission's terms of reference are:

To examine the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in England and Wales in securing the conviction of those guilty of criminal offences and the acquittal of those who are innocent, having regard to the efficient use of resources, and in particular to consider whether changes are needed in:

- Conduct of police investigations and their supervision by senior police officers, and in particular the degree of control that is exercised by those officers over the conduct of the in-

vestigation and gathering and preparation of evidence;

- The role of the prosecutor in supervising the gathering of evidence and deciding whether to proceed with a case, and the arrangements for the disclosure of material, including unused material, to the defence;

- The role of experts in criminal proceedings, their responsibilities to the court, prosecution, and defence, and the relationship between the forensic science services and the police;

- Arrangements for the defence of accused persons, access to legal advice, and access to expert advice;

- Opportunities available for an accused person to state his position on the matters charged

and the extent to which the courts might draw proper inferences from primary facts, the conduct of the accused, and any failure on his part to take advantage of an opportunity to state his position;

- Powers of the courts in directing proceedings, the possibility of their having an investigative role both before and during the trial, and the role of pre-trial reviews; the court's duty in considering evidence, including uncorroborated confession evidence;

- The role of the Court of Appeal in considering new evidence on appeal;

- Arrangements for investigating allegations of miscarriages of justice when appeal rights have been exhausted.

GUARDIAN

16.3.91

KILLER SET UP Pc

**Shot Pc
was
lured
to his
death**

Continued from front page

today and got a few of you but I didn't bother.

"I set him up you know. I shot him good and I could have got the other one as well."

Mr Nutting told the jury that jobless Gaynor, from Brownlow Road, Haggerston, had been to the Notting Hill Carnival with his girlfriend on August 27 when she told him she had another boyfriend.

Gaynor was upset when he left her Hackney home at 11pm and when he got home he dug up two sawn-off shotguns that had been stolen in Enfield 12 days before in a burglary and filled his pockets with cartridges.

Hoax call

At 2.20am he went to a phone box in Pownall Road and made a hoax 999 call, saying he could see a man breaking into a car.

Pcs Brown and Peter Townsend answered the call and searched Orwell Court.

As they were about to leave they saw Gaynor's head pop up above a wall where he had been hiding and grin at them.

He ducked as if to run off and Pc Brown gave chase only to be confronted by him holding a sawn-off shotgun.

Pc Brown backed off, shouting: "No, no, no," Mr Nutting said. "An almost solid ball of cartridge caught him in the chest."

● The trial continues.

THE killer of Hackney policeman Laurence Brown slashed his throat in a suicide attempt at the Old Bailey this week after the court had heard how he was cleared of another murder four years ago.

Gunman Mark Gaynor - who admits to blasting the 27-year-old Pc to death - gashed himself twice with a broken biro while locked in the cells during an adjournment and appeared in the dock on Wednesday with blood pouring from his self-inflicted wounds.

His counsel admitted 21-year-old Gaynor had killed Pc Brown in the car park of Orwell Court on Haggerston's Suffolk Estate last August after his 18-year-old girlfriend Leada Dupree had jilted him.

His barrister, Mr Patrick Back, QC, asked the jury to clear Gaynor of murder and convict him of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Stabbed to death

Earlier the court heard that Gaynor had been released from a four-year sentence in 1989 after he and three other men carried out a mugging attack in which the victim was stabbed to death.

He was cleared of murder, but found guilty of conspiracy to rob.

The prosecution allege Gaynor shot Pc Brown because his girlfriend ditched him. He set an ambush for two police officers by making a hoax phone call about a car being broken into, then blasted him with a shotgun from point-blank range.

He allegedly told Hackney police: "I blew your copper away because my girlfriend blew me away," the court heard.

Earlier, prosecuting counsel, Mr John Nutting, QC, told the court that in a tape-recorded interview at Hackney police station Gaynor was asked why he killed the constable.

Gaynor allegedly replied: "The only reason I done it was for love. Do you think they will ever bring back hanging?"

"All I had in my head was that girl. She was the only person I ever loved in my life. I would do anything for her. The first thing that



● Pc Laurence Brown - lured to his death in a car park on the Suffolk Estate in Haggerston.

came into my head was to shoot a policeman.

"I couldn't take it. I was going to shoot myself. I rung the police. I could have handed the gun to them but when they came I just shot one."

"I said I was going to get a copper. I could have gone down to the Notting Hill Carnival

● Continued on back page

Officers prepare for abolition of trade barriers

Policemen take French lessons

OOH LA LA! Hackney's boys in blue are forking out £50 a time to be given strict lessons by a French mistress - and it's all in the line of duty!

But it's absolutely nothing to do with the vice squad or the sort of nudge-nudge notices you see in seedy newsagents. Hackney bobbies really are learning French, and paying for the privilege too.

For three months, 60 officers have been sweating away in front of a blackboard in the basement of Bow Road police station, learning how their Parisian colleagues say such well-worn police phrases as "You're nicked, mate!"

The reason for all this

feverish French activity is that next year the trade barriers in the Common Market are being abolished, and the roads through Hackney and Tower Hamlets are expected to be clogged with continental juggernauts.

Overseeing the classroom lessons is Inspector Peter Snow, whose best qualification for the job is that he was married to

a French woman for many years, and still pops over to visit the in-laws from time to time!

"We're on a major through-route from the continent," he said, "and we thought it was vital for as many police officers as possible to take the course."

"Although we certainly expect to be arresting the odd French or German lorry driver, the top priority is to give a better service in more run-of-the-mill ways."

"As it is, I'm already called to City Road police station whenever they need help because I speak French and have to sort it out for them. And after all, it's just like you or me going abroad, we get into some sort of trouble and can't speak the language. It obviously makes it very difficult to communicate."

To help out the boys in blue, the Gazette has drawn up a handy pocket-size list of the phrases most likely to be used by the police if they stop a French lorry driver:

- You're nicked: *Vous êtes coincé.*
- Kindly accompany me to the station: *Veillez m'accompagner au commissariat, s'il vous plaît?*
- Could you blow into this bag, sir: *Pouvez-vous souffler dans ce sac, s'il vous plaît?*
- I hope you like prison food: *J'espère que vous aimez la nourriture de prison.*
- In England we drive on the left, you idiot: *En Angleterre on conduit à gauche, idiot!*

HC

22-3-91

Smiling killer who shot PC gets 25 years

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE gunman who was said to have smiled when he shot dead a police constable in Hackney, east London, last year was jailed for life at the Old Bailey yesterday, with a recommendation that he serve at least 25 years.

Mark Gaynor, aged 21, was found guilty of murdering PC Laurence Brown, aged 27, on August 28 last year. Sentencing him, Mr Justice Tucker described the shooting as a "wicked, callous and cowardly act." The sentence was intended "to reflect public outrage at what you did" and to act as a deterrent.

"The police protect the public and the police are entitled to expect the protection of the court."

Mr Gaynor made a hoax 999 call to the police after an argument with his girlfriend, Leander Dupres, aged 18, following last year's Notting Hill carnival. When PC Brown and PC Peter Townsend arrived to answer the call they saw Mr Gaynor sitting on a wall grinning at them. He ducked down and the officers split up to try to corner him.

PC Townsend told the court that he had heard PC Brown shouting "No!" He saw PC Brown being pushed by a man. Moments later he was shot in the chest with a sawn-off shotgun. Mr Gaynor ran off and was found later hiding on the 10th floor of a nearby block of flats. Police said he appeared calm.

Mr Gaynor told officers: "I blew your copper away because my girlfriend blew me away." Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill told the court that Mr Gaynor bragged about killing PC Brown. He said: "Yeah, I shot him. I blew him away." He added: "Why don't you hang me for this or electrocute me?"

John Nutting, prosecuting, told the jury in his summing up that "there may be circles where people who do harm

policemen are heroes." He suggested Mr Gaynor belonged to such circles. Mr Gaynor, unemployed and of no fixed abode, denied murder but admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility.

Patrick Back, QC, defending, said he was "suffering from such an abnormality of mind as to substantially impair his mental responsibility for his acts." Mr Gaynor said he had suffered from hallucinations. Doctors called by the defence and prosecution disagreed as to whether he was suffering from a psychotic illness.

His forearms were covered in slash marks which he had inflicted on himself while in prison. He cut his neck in court and the trial was adjourned while he was attended to by the Old Bailey matron.

A consultant psychiatrist, Dr Kim Fraser, said Mr Gaynor had a large bandage on his left arm when he saw him at Brixton prison on December 14. "I was informed he had cut himself with a razor."

He later told a psychiatrist that he believed all police were robots. He thought he was shooting at a robot and was surprised to see blood. "He said he was hearing voices giggling inside his head and he had an urge and impulse to kill people," said the psychiatrist. He claimed he believed Det Chief Supt Roger Stoodley of the Hackney police wanted him to kill people.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty after a short deliberation.

Mr Back asked for leniency on the grounds of his client's youth, that there was unlikely to be a recurrence of the crime and that he had shown no antagonism towards the police since the shooting. Mr Gaynor was a person of "gross immaturity."

After the trial, PC Brown's widow, Janet, whose daughter is now a year old, said: "Nothing will bring Laurence back."

Leander Dupres, the woman whom Mr Gaynor claimed had rejected him, was talking to a Sunday newspaper.



PC Laurence Brown: died after answering hoax 999 call



Mark Gaynor: 'thought he was shooting at a robot'

GUARDIAN

26-3-91

A bobby who takes some beating and a teacher who is cane for a laugh!

The puffing policeman

FASTER than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, Hackney cop Paddy McMullen is hoping not even Superman will catch him when he races in the London Marathon next month.

For Paddy is fleet-footed rather than flat-footed, and he has the very best of reasons for wanting to cross the finishing line first – the gruelling 26 mile slog is all for charity.

His colleagues at Hackney nick are all dipping into their pockets to sponsor the puffing policeman, and although the boys in blue are pretty well paid these days, not even they can give enough to satisfy Paddy.

by STEWART FOWLER

He wants kindhearted Hackney folk and businesses to sponsor him as well. And what a bargain you get if you agree.

Poor old Paddy does all the hard work, pounding the streets for mile after sweaty mile, while you just hand over some cash and bask in the reflected glory when he finishes!

The Hackney Home Beat officer, a familiar figure around Chalsworth Road and the Jack Dunning Estate in

Lower Clapton, is putting himself through this unique form of torture for Action on Research for Multiple Sclerosis.

"I've been training extremely hard with a practice run every day," he said. "So far the furthest I've managed is 18 miles, but I'm confident I'll finish the London Marathon course in about three-and-a-half hours, which is pretty good."

Mind you, he should be fit. The 36-year-old constable used to be an elite Paratrooper with the Army!

● To sponsor Paddy contact Hackney police station on 071-488 7110, or 071-488 7111.



Policeman's killer jailed

THIS is the face of Britain's youngest cop killer. Grinning gunman Mark Gaynor was jailed for life at the Old Bailey this week for the cold-blooded murder of Hackney policeman, Laurence Brown. Gaynor, 21, from Brownlow Road, Haggerston, lured the 27-year-old City Road copper to the car park of Orwell Court on the Suffolk Estate by making a hoax 999 call. Then he shot him from point-blank range with a gun he had stolen in a burglary.

● Full story: page five.



Police car set on fire at flats

ARSONISTS set a police car on fire when it was left parked outside a block of flats while the officers were answering a routine call.

The two coppers were shocked when they returned to find flames leaping from their car outside Welshpool House in Welshpool Street, Broadway Market, around 11.30pm on Tuesday. Sgt Philip Poole of City Road nick said: "The window was smashed, petrol poured through and lit. It was gutted."

Cop survey

COPS will be asking hundreds of people to help with their enquiries – but it's all in a good cause. Forces in Hackney and Tower Hamlets will carry out a customer satisfaction survey of station callers, as well as crime and accident victims from April to June. The aim is to find out what the public thinks of its local bobbies.

HC 28-3-91



● Pc Laurence Brown - gunned down.

Top cop speaks of relief at the outcome

POLICE colleagues and friends in Hackney reacted with horror and outrage when they learned of the shooting, and immediately rallied round to do all they could for Pc Brown's widow and baby daughter.

The borough's top cop, Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, knew Pc Brown personally and was his boss during the constable's nine years' service at Hackney and City Road police stations.

Speaking after a life sentence was passed on killer Mark Gaynor, Chief Supt Mulvihill said: "I am relieved the trial is concluded and that justice has been seen to be done."

Concern

"My concern naturally is, and always has been, for Larry Brown's immediate family and their well-being."

"The level of concern and support for the family by local police officers from Hackney and City Road has continued to be quite magnificent."

"I am very proud of all the officers on this division who have continued to serve in such an exemplary fashion since the tragedy. The citizens of Hackney can feel extremely proud of all our officers."

BRITAIN'S youngest police killer was sentenced to life at the Old Bailey this week for the cold-blooded murder of a Hackney policeman. Evil Mark Gaynor grinned as he blasted Pc Laurence Brown with a shotgun after luring him to a flatblock car park with a hoax 999 call. The murder shocked the nation and once again focused public attention on the dangers Hackney's police face.



● Mark Gaynor - life sentence.

Brass plaque plan by movie chief

FAMOUS film director Michael Winner, who made the *Death Wish* film series, is going ahead with plans to erect a memorial to Pc Brown at the scene of the murder in Pownall Road.

As founder and chairman of the Police Memorial Trust, a charity which commemorates officers who are killed on duty, Mr Winner has arranged for a simple granite monument to be made with a brass plaque inscribed to the dead constable's memory.

"This was a senseless, dreadful killing," he said, "and the monument will give the local community an opportunity to remember police bravery."

Fake insanity failed to impress the jury

Thug gets life for killing policeman

'They should bring back hanging and make me swing or electrocute me'

THE cold-blooded killer of a policeman was jailed for life this week with a recommendation that he serves a minimum of 25 years.

Mark Gaynor, 21, handcuffed and flanked by four prison officers, was described by Mr Justice Tucker at the Old Bailey as a most wicked, callous and cowardly murderer.

Gaynor was convicted of murdering 27-year-old constable Laurence Brown, married with a baby daughter, who was shot dead after being lured into an ambush in Pownall Road, Haggerston, on August 28 last year.

He tried to fake insanity and hoodwink the jury into convicting him only of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Gaynor, unemployed, of Brownlow Road, Haggerston, told friends: "I'm going to make out I'm mad so that I'll go to hospital. I'll probably go to Broadmoor."

But the cunning killer - he grinned as he fired a shotgun from 18 inches into the unnamed constable's chest - lost his gamble when the jury found him guilty.

His victim's sobbing widow Janet,

27, a nurse, sat seven feet away as Mr Justice Tucker told Gaynor: "It's difficult to describe your offence in moderate terms. Because you were a girl-friend rejected you, and in order to prove something to her, you decided to shoot a policeman. You went out in search of a victim."

The judge said the sentence had to reflect the public's outrage and to deter others.

"The police protect the public and the police are entitled to expect the protection of the court," he went on.

Mr Justice Tucker told Gaynor: "I regard you as a thoroughly dangerous young man."

In addition to his conviction for murdering constable Brown, Gaynor admitted burglary at a house in Albany Park Avenue, Enfield, and stealing four shotguns and an air rifle. For that offence he was given a seven-year concurrent sentence.

Gaynor was arrogant as he bragged to police about the shooting of Pc Brown, a complete stranger to him.

The officer and a colleague answered a 2am hoax call made by Gaynor who claimed he was witnessing someone breaking into a car. Moments after Pc Brown and Pc Peter Townsend arrived Gaynor stepped from his hiding place, grinned and shot Pc Brown as the officer backed away and appealed "No, no, no." The shotgun was so close that a ball of 290 pellets entered the officer's chest and killed him instantly.

Gaynor told investigators: "I blew your copper away because my girlfriend blew me away."

He said he went crazy when his girlfriend, Leanda Dupres, 18, of Albany Park Avenue, Enfield, ditched

him. He dug up two sawn-off double-barrel shotguns he had buried in his garden, filled his pockets with cartridges and went out to shoot a policeman.

"They should bring back hanging and make me swing or electrocute me," Gaynor said.

He talked about his ideas of going to the Notting Hill carnival or to Downing Street to shoot policemen at random in a Hungerford-style massacre.

After a week-long trial the jury of eight women and four men considered their verdict for more than three hours.

Mr Patrick Back, QC, defending, acknowledged the ghastly circumstances of the killing, but claimed that Gaynor had no hatred of the police.

"None of us really know or will ever know what went through his mind that dreadful day. What is plain is that there seems gross immaturity in this young man."

"He seems to have quite a pleasing personality and no-one would suspect the terrible violence in him. It would only be guesswork that there would not be a recurrence," added Mr Back.

Mayor's appeal raises £12,000

GENEROUS Hackney folk raised nearly £12,000 for Pc Brown's grieving widow Janet and baby Emma in the aftermath of the horrific shooting.

The appeal was set up by ex Hackney mayor Betty Shanks, who lives on Haggerston's Regent Estate, facing the spot where the constable was gunned down in cold blood by his grinning killer.

She said: "I'm glad it's all over, because Janet and her daughter can start a new life now and settle down."

"I know the relief I felt when the trial was over and finished with. I'm sure everyone in Hackney would wish her and Emma a happy life in future."

Killer bragged that he got away with murder

EVIL Mark Gaynor went quietly to the cells in sharp contrast to his last appearance at the Old Bailey in 1987 after he and four other muggers stabbed to death Asian machinist, Abubakkar Rangara, on South Hackney's Kingshild Estate.

He had been cleared of murdering the slightly-built 29-year-old clothing worker, but admitted conspiracy to rob and was jailed for four years.

With four other muggers, he jeered, swore and abused the judge.

Mr Rangara and his 22-year-old wife were on their way home to their flat at Raymond House when they were surrounded in King Edward's Road. Mr Rangara was punched, kicked and rubbed of 23 pence then stabbed to death with a flick knife.

His attackers laughed as they talked of how the knife sliced through his stomach "like going into a pound of butter."

After he was freed - nine months before Pc Brown was killed - he bragged: "I'm Mark Gaynor and I got away with murder."

An all-time loser with a love for violence

TWISTED killer Mark Gaynor was an all-time loser.

After his girlfriend ditched him the habitual criminal planned a Hungerford-style massacre in revenge, but after blasting Pc Brown he lost his nerve at the sight of blood.

He had been quizzed by police about the murders of two Asian shopkeepers in Lower Clapton Road before the shooting and the trial heard how he became obsessed that a senior detective was persecuting him.

While awaiting trial he cut himself with a razor, and during the trial he slashed his throat with a broken biro. But it was all exhibitionism.

Gaynor, 21, lived with

his mother in Brownlow Road, Haggerston, and had been a failure all his life.

The fourth of five children, he was a different and difficult child from an early age. His mother, Pamela, is white and his father, who he never met, is black.

When he was small the three elder children were taken into care and he lived at home with his younger brother, Sean.

He was expelled from school at the age of eight for aggressive and violent behaviour, including smashing furniture.

As a teenager he was disruptive and regularly played truant. He was banned from science laboratories and woodwork shops because he used tools and equipment to endanger

other pupils. He was so violent he landed in special remedial classes.

He teamed up with a gang and was convicted of a factory burglary and causing £4,000 of damage.

And while serving his four-year sentence for the fatal mugging he smashed a cell at Aylesbury Prison to pieces, prompting a psychiatrist to record it as the worst case of cell damage by an inmate in his 47 years' experience.

Gaynor had difficulty with relationships, and sexual difficulties. He met Leanda Dupres six weeks before he murdered Pc Brown and fell head-over-heels in love with the 18-year-old. It was her rejection of him which ended in Pc Brown's death.

Anguish of a bobby's family

LAURENCE Brown's widow, Janet, sat in court throughout the trial which started just three days after their daughter celebrated her first birthday.

The City Road policeman doted on Emma, but his cold-blooded killing has robbed them both of a loving husband and father.

Janet and Laurence were childhood sweethearts who met at school. The 27-year-old nurse - who now works part-time at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, where her husband's body was taken - choked back the tears with emotion this week after watching Mark Gaynor jailed at the Old Bailey.

"I just wanted to be there to see the man who went out to shoot a policeman - any policeman. I wanted to hear him tell the reasons, I had to know why," she sobbed.

"What hurts most is that I have no-one to share Emma with."

The mother and father of Pc Laurence Brown, who had personally thanked the people of Hackney for the floral tributes at the memorial service for their son last summer, didn't want to comment on the verdict.

"I have my own thoughts about that," said his mother Flossy. "Nothing will bring him back."

HC 28-3-91

HALTING CRIME IN HACKNEY



"THE BILL" came to Hackney the other day when P.C. Stamp dropped into the Town Hall. Star of the popular TV series Graham Cole joined Council Leader John McCafferty and local Superintendant Bill Grahamslaw to open a special crime prevention exhibition.

Jointly organised by the Police and Hackney Council, the exhibition brought together an impressive range of crime - prevention equipment plus displays by the Police, the Council and local voluntary organisations.

All inner-city areas have a big crime problem and Hackney is no exception. Half of the reported crimes in the Borough are burglaries and car thefts - crimes which can be prevented according to the Police. "It's our job to fight crime" says Bill Grahamslaw "but there's a lot that people can do to protect themselves and their families."

Co-operation between the community, the Police and the Council is the key to beating crime, according to John McCafferty. "We are committed to working closely with the local Police in the fight against crime" he says. This exhibition follows on from our successful 'Get Street Bright'

project to improve street lighting where it is most needed and our joint submission to the Home Office on crime prevention - the success of the partnership approach."

Both the Council and the Police are determined to involve as many local people as possible in the anti-crime campaign. Don't worry if you missed the exhibition - you can still help to halt crime in Hackney.

Why not contact the local police and get some advice about securing your home? Call the Crime Prevention Officer on 071 488 7110 (Hackney) or 071 488 7188 (Stoke Newington).

You can also use the coupon below to place an advance order for your copy of a special free booklet which the Council is producing with assistance from the Police as a local contribution to National Crime Prevention Week later this month. **H**

HACKNEY HERALD

4-4-91

Community stunned by brutal stabbing

MURDER hunt cops are still trying to track down two Scottish men after a popular Hoxton teenager was stabbed to death during a brawl as he tried to defend his friend.

And this week the dead boy's black pal hit out at reports in the national press that the tragedy was the bloody result of a racist attack and told the Gazette he had NOT been the victim of racial abuse.

Paul Dunne, 19, was knifed in the chest when a fight broke out after two thugs hurled insults at 17-year-old Joseph Thomas as the pals walked home with another friend, Martin Askew, from a Chinese takeaway in Hoxton Street after a night out at a pub.

One of the attackers flicked out a knife and the three teenagers picked up sticks and milk bottles to defend themselves. But Paul, of Crondall Street, was knifed in the chest and died at Bart's Hospital after the stabbing during the early hours of Thursday last week.

Det Insp Dave Sandling, leading the murder investigation, said: "Contrary to reports in the national press, we are not treating it as a racial attack."

"Joseph Thomas goes to drama classes and as he was walking along he was acting out the role of an elderly man."

"The two attackers started taking the mick-

cy at the way he was walking and that's how the fight broke out."

And Joseph, of Stanway Street, Hoxton, who works at Fresh Connection dry cleaners in Hoxton Street, told the Gazette: "It wasn't a racist attack and I didn't tell the papers the men called me a black bastard."

"They were mumbling but I think they were calling me a nutter. I wasn't racist and that's all I want to say."

The Hoxton community has been left reeling by the brutal murder of the popular teenager known as "everyone's friend."

He was a member of the Lion Boys' Club and was so well-liked that in 1986 he was voted Junior Boy of the Year.

A neighbour (who asked not to be named) told the Gazette: "We are all heart-broken. You couldn't have met a more well-liked, kind lad. If he saw me coming up the stairs with a heavy shopping bag, he always offered to carry it."

Paul's devastated mum and dad are being comforted by his older brother and sister and were too upset to talk to the Gazette.

Police are looking for two men with Scots accents. One had short, blond hair, round gold-framed glasses and received a cut to the left of his mouth. The other man had short, dark brown hair.

Anyone with information should contact the murder incident room on 081 985 3660.

by CAROL DYCE

Teenage victim was 'everyone's friend'



● Teenage murder victim Paul Dunne.



New police chief takes over

CHIEF Superintendent Bernard Taffs, pictured left, takes over today (Friday) as Hackney's top cop, more than 30 years after he first came here as a rookie constable and met his wife who worked as a shop assistant in

Woolworth's in Mare Street.

He replaces Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill who spent over four years based at Hackney and City Road - the longest-ever senior posting in London.

Chief Supt Taffs, aged 49,

was born in Southgate, but has fond memories of Hackney as he lived in Ede House, Mare Street.

He met his wife Maureen as he pounded the beat on his first posting in 1960 after training college.

Cop killer's suicide bid

COP killer Mark Gaynor was still in a critical condition in a hospital intensive care unit this week after trying to hang himself in his prison cell.

He was discovered hanging from a noose made from bedsheets at Wormwood Scrubs just five days after he was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the murder of Hackney policeman Laurence Brown.

It was the second time the 21-year-old from Brownlow Road, Haggerston, had tried to kill himself. During his trial he slashed his neck and appeared in court with his wound covered by dressings.

And the trial also heard of suicide notes he had written

before the shooting of the 27-year-old policeman.

A Home Office spokesperson refused to discuss specific cases, but said circumstances surrounding any suicide attempt in prison were always investigated.

"Prisoners are examined by a doctor for their mental and physical condition and a history of suicide bids would be taken into account."

"Depending on what assessment a prisoner is given they may be put in a shared cell or in a hospital wing where they are checked every 15 minutes. To prevent every suicide attempt you would need to keep a round-the-clock watch on prisoners."

HC
5.4.91

Niall waves a fond farewell

AFTER more than four turbulent years as Hackney's top cop Niall Mulvihill has finally said goodbye to the streets where he was born.

Mr Mulvihill this week starts a six-month command course at the Police Academy, Hendon, which could catapult him to the top of the police force.

During his time as Chief Superintendent covering Hackney and City Road Mr Mulvihill and his 450 police and civilian staff have been no stranger to controversy.

Hackney cop Larry Brown was tragically gunned down in August by Mark Gaynor in Orwell Court, Haggerston, as the Pc answered a house call made by the killer.

This year seven off duty City Road cops were finally sacked after the attack on Gary Stretch where his car was nearly reversed outside the Limes pub in Hackney Road.

THE poll tax Battle of Mare Street last March ended in a riot with 40 police officers injured, 37 people arrested and tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage to shops.

Hackney Council snubbed the Police Community Consultative Group for four years because they said it was undemocratic and a police spydog. Only now have relations eased and a cross-party group of five councillors has decided to attend the meetings.

Despite the bad press Chief Supt Mulvihill believes the people of Hack-

Top cop still haunted by the murder of Pc Brown

by MARK GOULD



● Bernard Taffs who steps in to Chief Supt Mulvihill's shoes

ney are getting a good service.

HE thought the Gary Stretch attack an unfortunate one-off.

"It is inevitable in an inner city area there will be a relatively high level of crime and a relatively high level of interaction between

the police and certain sections of the community, there will be cases that attract public attention," he told the Gazette.

"We have introduced victim sampling where we have asked both victims and witnesses to comment on the professionalism of the po-

lice. That is because the Met are committed to providing the sort of service that the public should have," he said.

CHIEF Supt Mulvihill said the murder of Pc Brown was the worst experience in his years in Hackney.

The lowest point must have been the tragic death in the line of duty of Pc Larry Brown.

"But moral is still high and the community showed their generous feelings towards the police after the tragedy."

"I am very optimistic by nature and I'm absolutely convinced that there is a healthy atmosphere for the police and the council, and especially the Community Consultative Group, to work together for the best interests of Hackney."

MR Mulvihill reacted strongly to allegations that the PCOO was a police lap-dog.

"I refuse that suggestion entirely. I know that there is a very real level of accountability. I think they are very well informed and ask what might be considered delicate questions as the police must be accountable and I have never missed a single meeting during my tenure of office."

"I am really pleased about



● Over and out! Niall Mulvihill signs off from Hackney.

the recent move by the local council to join the Consultative Group as they can only add even further to its effectiveness."

ON the subject of police accountability he backed the views of the Commissioner Peter Imbert on the setting up an independent police complaints committee.

"I am in favour of an independent group to investigate the police - if the public

went it then it's for parliament to decide."

"I shall miss Hackney as I was born and bred here but after the course I could be posted back to a neighbouring division, but that is in other people's hands."

"I would just like to wish my replacement, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, every success and I envy him the good fortune of having such great staff - both police and civilian," he said.

'I shall miss Hackney as I was born and bred here'

Cop haven is a home from home

HACKNEY'S homeless could soon find themselves with a roof over their heads, thanks to the Metropolitan Police - though they won't find themselves bugged up in the cell!

London's top cops have decided to close one of Hackney's police station houses, normally used to provide accommodation for officers working at the borough's three police stations, and give it to the Department of the Environment to house the homeless.

The 51 policemen currently living at Ede House in Mare Street should all be moved out within four weeks, probably to other similar section houses elsewhere in the borough.

The building is made up of 120 beds and is obviously under-occupied at present.

But there is a desperate lack of accommodation for London's homeless and it would prove ideal as a short-term hostel.

The police hope eventually to sell the building, one of three in the capital which are up for sale, but have so far been unable to find a buyer because of the recession.

Government chiefs have still to make a final decision on whether or not to take up the offer of the building, which would be leased to the DoH for 12 months, but they are expected to give the go-ahead to the plan.

A spokesperson for the Met Police said: "We see this as an excellent opportunity to provide some help for those unfortunate enough to be homeless in London."

Bravery award for plucky policeman

A POLICEMAN who was slashed by a knife man while attempting to make an arrest during a drugs raid has received an award for bravery.

Det Con Roy Lewandowski, from Stoke Newington police station, was commended for his "courage and devotion to duty" by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor at a special ceremony.

The attack happened when Det Con Lewandowski and a colleague were involved in a drugs bust at Woodlands Park, South Tottenham, last September.

Officers had to force their way in by making a large hole in the door after the occupants refused to let them in.

It was when the two officers attempted to climb through the hole that they were attacked by a man who slashed their hands with a large kitchen knife.

Eventually the man was arrested by the two brave coppers after they managed to get through the door.



● Det Con Roy Lewandowski with DAC Michael Taylor

By-election candidate faces abuse on estate

Tories outraged at 'squatters' rule'

TORIES have accused the council of surrendering an estate to squatters' rule after they were threatened with violence while canvassing for the forthcoming Northfield ward by-election.

Police were called to Stamford Hill's Holmeigh Road Estate after Conservative councillors Eric Ollerenshaw and Phil McCullough were threatened and candidate Michael Hughes had his mobile ripped from him by a squatter.

This week they claimed squatters had taken over the graffiti-covered estate and accused Hackney Council of abandoning the tenant still living there.

They say they were appalled at how many flats were being squatted.

In one block, Quind Court, every single one of the 14 flats and maisonettes was occupied by squatters they claim, while at least a third of the flats in other

by RUSS LAWRENCE

blocks were being squatted. Now they have written to the chair of the council's housing committee, Cllr Linda Hubbard, and the borough's director of housing, Bernard Crofton, demanding to know how it has been allowed to happen and what action the council intends to take.

Two years

"In one case I was told by a tenant that the flat next door had been squatted for more than two years," said Cllr Ollerenshaw.

"The council appears to have given up hope on the estate and simply surrendered it to what appears to be the worst kind of squatter."

"The impression from tenants was they had been abandoned and consigned to some kind of forgotten wasteland which was increasingly being ruled by squatters."

Fellow Tory Cllr McCullough said the situation had not happened overnight and wanted to know how much rent revenue had been lost because the flats had been left unlet and squatted.

"The council tells us they cannot give transfers because of a shortage of properties, yet they allow this situation to continue," he said.

A Hackney Council spokesperson said: "Squatters have not taken over the estate."

"There is a problem there and we are attempting to remove illegal occupants wherever we can but it is made most difficult by the housing crisis which is affecting all of London."

CITY Road coppers today (Friday)

pay tribute to their murdered colleague

and friend Pc Laurence Brown. A memorial plaque will be unveiled at the police station during a special ceremony to be attended by his widow Janet and baby daughter Emma.

The officer's parents, Peter and Florey Brown, will also watch Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor unveil the bronze plaque bearing the simple inscription: "In memory of Pc Laurence Peter Brown, killed on duty, 28 August, 1990."

And Pc Brown's father Peter described the occasion as one of both sadness and pride for the grieving family, still struggling to come to terms with the 27-year-old policeman's cold-blooded murder.

Britain's youngest police killer, 21-year-old Mark Gaynor, was sentenced to life at the Old Bailey last



● Pc Laurence Brown

month for Pc Brown's murder. He blasted the officer with a shotgun after luring him to a block of flats in Purnell Road, Haggerston, with a box 999 call.

Peter Brown told the Gazette: "This is yet another sad occasion for Janet and all the family and many

colleagues who held Laurence in such high esteem."

"Although for the foreseeable future Laurence's death will be remembered, time does pass, and in years to come the plaque will be a permanent reminder of just one more police officer who gave his life serving the community."

"The ceremony will be a sad occasion, but it will also be tinged with pride and one of the most simple but meaningful comments I have heard was made by Michael Winner who said: 'When someone says you can never find a policeman when you need one, tell them Laurence Brown was there'."

● Famous film director Michael Winner, who is founder and chair of the Police Memorial Trust which commemorates officers killed on duty, is going ahead with plans to put up a memorial for Pc Brown at the scene of the murder.

HS
12.4.91

SQUATTERS' FURY AT GET TOUGH POLICY

Police move in to break up housing office occupation



Police struggle with a demonstrator.

SQUATTERS who barricaded themselves into a Hackney Council housing office and rifled through confidential files on Tuesday say they'll fight tooth-and-nail to stop borough-wide mass evictions.

Fifteen squatters were eventually arrested after police broke down the barricades and then squeezed through tiny windows onto a first floor balcony, where the demonstrators had fled.

With no door onto the balcony, police officers then had to push them back through the windows where they were caught by colleagues.

While other squatters waved placards, shouted slogans and jeered at police outside Stamford Hill and Upper Clapton District Housing Office, at the corner of Stamford Hill and Amburst Park, the demonstrators were taken to Stoke Newington police station and spent the night in the cells.

Town Hall bosses have announced a clampdown against squatters after admitting they can no longer cope with the numbers of homeless families on the waiting list.

But the squatters' threat of a heated campaign of direct action is a grim reminder of

by STEWART FOWLER

what happened three years ago after a similar purge.

Hundreds of squatters built barricades and set fire to abandoned cars, fighting pitched battles with riot police and turning the Stamford Hill Estate into a no-go area for three days. Town Hall workers and councillors were beaten up and had their homes vandalised.

Tuesday's protest was organised by Hackney Squatters Aid. A spokesperson for the group said: "It was a peaceful demonstration because we didn't want any trouble."

"But we took action because of council evictions that are unnecessary, inhuman and in some cases illegal. The large number of squats in Hackney illustrates the critical level the housing crisis has reached."

There are 2,966 empty council properties in Hackney, with 1,320 of them squatted. Many of them are in no fit state to be let to tenants.

Linda Hibbert, Hackney's housing boss, said: "We have 8,000 families on our housing waiting list, and another 3,000 in temporary accommodation."

"We desperately need family-sized flats for them, which is why we have had to resort to these evictions. They are in greater need than the squatters."

"We are hoping that the squatters will vacate properties peacefully rather than the council having to call in the police and use force."



Tribute over pervert case

A CITY Road copper has received a special commendation as a tribute to his work in helping to track down sex perverts who preyed on children.

Pc David Corbett was part of the team which found the perverts after seven children, aged 11-16, were the victims of indecent approaches, in the summer of 1989.

"The investigation was delicate, requiring compassion and understanding, and was successful partly due to the meticulous information gathering by Pc Corbett," said a Metropolitan Police spokesperson.

The case culminated with the conviction of

three persons responsible for indecent acts with children."

Pc Corbett (pictured left) was presented with the commendation by the Met's Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Michael Taylor, at a special ceremony at the police sports and social club in Chigwell.



Squatters protest while police climb through windows to catch them.

Mayor in chains as 'cuffs jape backfires

'ELLO, 'ello, 'ello, what's going on 'ere then? Hackney Mayor Shuja Shaikh always makes an arresting sight... but it's going a bit far when you end up handcuffed to the long arm of the law!

Well, it is National Crime Prevention Week, so have Hackney coppers made a top-notch collar? Has the borough's first citizen been caught out in devious plans to flog off the mayoral chain? Foiled in furtive goings-on in the corridors of power? Just what DOES he keep under that famous hat?

Don't worry, the campaigning Gazette is here to tell you Who Framed Shuja Shaikh? For he was the innocent victim of a Jeremy Beadle-style jape by charity workers as he turned up at a jumble sale to raise money for St Joseph's Hospice in Mare Street, Hackney.

Organisers Peter Colelli and Mick Mee decided to bill it as the Thieves' Jumble Sale - after previous sales had been spoiled by mean thieves nicking stuff - in the hope that it would shame the light-fingered into keeping away.

So they roped in fun-loving Pc Peter McGowan from Hackney police station to "arrest" Shuja as he arrived at the sale in Sylvester Road, Hackney, on Saturday.

And to add insult to injury instead of a spot

by CAROL DYCE

of luncheon, he was confronted with a trans-hem!

I gave the flabbergasted mayor quite a shock. But even when he'd ascertained it was all a joke, more was in store to make him shudder in his boots, as Pc McGowan lost the key to the handcuffs!

Luckily, just when it looked like Shuja would be helping the police with their inquiries for some time, the key turned up.

"I had no idea what I was in for," Shuja told the Gazette. "When the cuffs were slapped on me, I first thought that the mayoral car was blocking the road!"

"When the police officer couldn't find the key to unshackle me, I thought I would have to accompany him to the police station."

"But I told him that would be out of the question as I had another mayoral engagement!"

And it was smiles all round as he did make it to his appointment (minus the handcuffs) and the sale raised £150 for the hospice - and the Thieves' Jumble Sale tag worked, as it was the first one where nothing was stolen.



You're nicked! Hackney Mayor Shuja Shaikh handcuffed to Pc Peter McGowan's long arm of the law while charity worker Mick Mee brandishes a trans-hem!

Loitering with intent to beat crime

THE BOYS in blue had their eyes on Hackney Council deputy leader Tommy Sheppard when he was spotted loitering on the Town Hall steps on Tuesday.

But the sober-suited councillor had a good reason for keeping Hackney's cops company - the launch of a crime prevention booklet that is available free to anybody in the borough.

The booklet, called "Reversing the Trend" and produced by Hackney Council's police research unit with help from local police, gives advice and practical tips on everything

Deputy leader backs seven-day crusade against villains

from where to get help if you're suffering racist harassment and how to keep the burglars out of your home, to choosing a babysitter to look after your children.

And Labour's Shadow Home Office Minister Barry Sheerman was also on hand to praise the helpful booklet as "a shining example of partnership between the

police and a local authority in the fight against crime."

Launched as part of National Crime Prevention Week, Stoke Newington Supt Bill Grahamshaw said: "No-one need feel powerless against crime."

"It's our job to catch criminals but there's a lot people can do to protect themselves and their families. This booklet is full of sound and sensible advice."

You can get a copy free of charge from the Police Research Unit, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney EA1 1EA.



Supt Bill Grahamshaw and colleague Insp Trevor Holmes flank council deputy leader Tommy Sheppard and Shadow Home Office Minister Barry Sheerman.

New police watchdog group to be launched

CAMPAIGNER Gloria Van Cooten is set to launch a new group to investigate complaints of unjust and unlawful treatment by the police.

PAID - standing for People Against Injustice and Disparity - will be launched at a special meeting at the Roots Pool Development, Arcula Street, Dalston.

Mrs Van Cooten, who lives in Chael Street, Hoxton, was a prison visitor for eight years, the last three checking on conditions at Hackney, Stoke Newington and City Road police stations.

She was thrown off the panel of prison visitors in 1989 by the then Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd.

Since then she has championed the cause of Sammy Davis, a Stoke Newington mini-cab driver jailed for the rape of a Swedish tourist.

The case was taken up by the BBC TV series Rough Justice who unearthed new evidence that Mr Davis could not have committed the crime. The new evidence was handed over to the Home Secretary and Mr Davis was eventually released last year.

The new organisation aims to investigate complaints of unjust and unlawful treatment during arrest and interrogation, and to monitor complaints of unequal or indifferent treatment by lawyers.

PAID will be formally launched at Roots Pool at 7pm on Tuesday, April 30, with speakers including Mrs Van Cooten, the Rev Patrick Huntley and Ahmed Sheikh.

HC 19.4.91

Plaque unveiled to Pc's memory

Pc Brown's parents, Peter and Floozy, also looked on with his colleagues and friends, including ex-Mayor Betty Shanks who set up a memorial trust, as Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor unveiled the bronze plaque with the simple inscription: "In memory of Pc Laurance, who died in the line of duty on 13 June 1992." The top of just three point four feet tall and 1.5 feet wide the "Cantered" lead plaque (Slaters) will be mounted on a wooden base.



It was a very emotional occasion and our grief is just as sharp as ever," said Peter Brown. "But it is especially hard on Ja-

and his fellow de-
voted attention to
the job just before
a sign Bury said
"I think it is a
shame that O's will
be out of the league
if they lose their last
game." O's will
be out of the league
if they lose their last
game.

The attacks were centred on Kemish Buses' numbers 22A and 22B running through or near the Mulfields Estate where a gang was believed to be operating, and the company responded with toughened mesh screens.

Kentish Buses has also held meetings with London Transport, whose fare-dodger spotters travel on their vehicles, and has said it will take full measures to protect its staff.

Spokesperson Gilly Forryan said that doing something about the cells at Hackney and City Road topped a list of concerns which also cov-

Panel calls for deportees to be kept out of station lock-ups

Talks were also going on with the Home Of-

● The Lay Visitors Panel would like more women, and residents from ethnic minorities to take part in its work. Contact John Palmer on 081 505 5862 for details.

Complaints over police conduct at a record level

COMPLAINTS against the police have risen to an all-time high, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday, as it called for a new two-tier system of discipline hearings and greater resources for tackling larger inquiries.

The authority also criticised police forces for imposing low penalties against officers in some discipline cases, and is pressing the police service and Home Office to agree on swifter resolution of complaints because of concern about the time being taken.

Judge Francis Petre, its chairman, said: "Bad policing is anathema to us as it is to all decent policing officers. The police are making efforts to improve their service and we know public confidence in the system is essential."

In 1990, the authority was notified of 3,078 serious cases, an increase of 1 per cent over 1989, of which 836 were undertaken for supervision. Discipline cases rose by 36 per cent over 1989 to 7,156, of which 10 per cent had already been conducted as supervised inquiries. Work was completed on 7,273 cases containing 16,712 individual complaints. Just over 10 per cent resulted in criminal or disciplinary action.

The authority says that there has been "a noticeable increase" in complaints about unauthorised use of the police national computer or force intelligence records, but that "a few chief officers... do not seem to consider it serious enough to warrant taking formal disciplinary action". It gives two examples of officers, who checked on the background of people for personal reasons,

By Terry Kirby
Crime Correspondent

disciplined only at the insistence of the authority.

Another case highlighted in the authority's three-year review, also published yesterday, describes three officers accused of lying on oath, who were fined £25 each at a disciplinary hearing. The authority says the incident underlines the inadequacy of the disciplinary system because the deputy chief constable delegated to conduct the hearing lacked the power to impose a stiffer penalty.

The authority says some forces believe that a disciplinary case cannot be proved if there are no independent witnesses to an incident denied by an officer. To im-

prove efficiency, it believes officers should be interviewed at the start of an inquiry rather than the end. "The police adopt a rather different approach to a member of the public suspected of a criminal offence. We cannot see why a similar procedure should not be applied to investigations into police misconduct."

In a plea for extra resources, the report emphasises that the workload caused by large cases — like the Hillsborough tragedy and the West Midlands Police Serious Crime Squad — is greater than that originally contemplated.

John Evans, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall and chairman of the complaints and discipline committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, rejected the "underlying suggestion" of the authority that chief constables were less than objective in disciplinary hearings.

Chief constables were prepared to discuss changes in the discipline system and were considering ways of reducing delays and secretiveness. Plans to alter the burden of proof for lesser discipline cases needed "very serious consideration", he said.

Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, said complaints were thoroughly investigated. "If we put as much effort into solving crimes as we do investigating complaints then the clearance rate would be much better." The federation was convinced the supervision system was not working because it failed to win the confidence of the public, something only a fully independent investigation system would achieve.



Calls for two-tier system of disciplinary hearings

A TWO-TIER system of disciplinary hearings — involving a lower standard of proof in minor cases — was put forward yesterday by the Police Complaints Authority in its three-yearly review.

The authority is urging the Home Office to end years of discontent over inadequacies in the system by setting up a working group to consider a number of radical suggestions.

Some encompass earlier calls for reform by the authority and the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, which have either been rejected by the Home Office or lost amid consultative procedures. While senior authority members hope to sting the Home Office into action, they recognise that legislative time and a general election could be deciding factors.

The report calls for "a measure of genuine independent civilian oversight at all stages". At

present, the authority virtually ceases to have any control over events the moment a disciplinary hearing or tribunal is initiated.

The authority is critical of powers available to forces which enable them to restrict, effectively, the punishments available at disciplinary hearings. It wants the responsibility for drafting or approving charges, deciding whether the accused should be offered legal representation and presenting the case.

There are many cases, the authority says, which require hearings but where it cannot recommend charges because of the "unnecessarily high" standard of proof required. It suggests minor matters could be dealt with by a chief superintendent or superintendent, in private and with a lower standard of proof based on the balance of probabilities, limited powers of punishment and no right of legal representation.

More serious matters should be heard by tribunals, presently convened in important cases or where the authority overrides a force's wishes to bring discipline charges. Higher standards of proof should apply, as now, and evidence should be given on oath, a change from current practice.

The authority no longer wants its members to sit on tribunals. It considers this a conflict of interest and says they should comprise two lay members and a lawyer, or a chief constable accompanied by lay assessors. The chief constable would have the right to accept or reject the recommended penalty.

The authority wants such hearings open to the public. At present many forces refuse to disclose the results, even to the complainant.

It says: "In these days of a more questioning society... these are matters which are not in keeping with the times. We consider the degree of secrecy harmful."

INDEPENDENT

25.4.91

Shops band together to beat crime wave

SHOPS and businesses in Finsbury Park have clubbed together to beat crime with the launch of a Community Alarm Scheme.

Up to 20 shops in Blackstock Road are being fitted with buzzers and panic buttons after a survey showed frightened shopkeepers were the victims of abuse, harassment and petty theft.

Shopkeepers who come face to face with a would-be robber will soon be able to simply press a button and alert neighbours who will then phone the police – without the thief hav-

ing a clue what they're up to. It's the idea of the Finsbury Park Community Trust and has been paid for by the government's Safer Cities Project.

Trust spokesperson Sue Bagwell explained: "It will only cost the shopkeepers a minimal fee of £10 a year in maintenance costs, which is nothing compared to the peace of mind it offers them."

"A lot of these shopkeepers work alone late at night, when the risks are obviously greatest, and this alarm system should be a real boon."

"At the moment this is just a pilot scheme, but we hope that as it proves successful we will be able to press the council to extend it."

At the same time as the new alarm scheme, a Neighbourhood Watch-type project for shopkeepers has been set up, called Business Watch.

This is for all traders in the Finsbury Park area and will offer mutual support and advice as well as meetings with the police to discuss shop security. To find out more, phone Sue Bagwell at the Finsbury Park Community Trust on 071 263 3138.

Daily death threats for drug cops

DRUG dealers protecting their "patch" threaten to kill police officers every day, one of Hackney's top cops has revealed.

And Chief Supt Roy Clark, from Stoke Newington police station, promised his full backing to the special drug-busting initiative launched in Hackney last week and offering cash grants to anyone prepared to help tackle the borough's spiralling drugs crisis.

Speaking at a meeting of the Hackney Police Community Consultative Group, Chief Supt Clark said: "It is a constant battle to beat the dealers."

"Our officers are having their lives threatened on a daily basis by dealers, and have, on occasion, had guns pulled on them by people they are trying to arrest."

A detective from Hackney's area drug squad, Det Con Paul Arger, who is on the front line in the battle against the dealers, said: "Last year these people made more profit than ICI – a staggering £30 million!"

"If a dealer is making himself £2,000 a week profit, then he will be very careful when he goes about his business. It takes time and protracted observation to get results and we need the co-operation of ordinary residents, if we are to successfully push these people out of the borough."

"There is no doubt that heroin and crack-co-

'Last year these
people made more
profit than ICI!'

caine are on the increase in Hackney. And the users are funding their habits from crime."

Betty Blomfield, chair of the consultative group, said that drug-related crime was of great concern to all Hackney resi-

dents. "From knocking some poor old lady about so she is unrecognizable to stabbing someone and killing them, it has to be stamped out," she said.

Hackney's mayor, Shuja Shaikh, admitted: "The drug problem is not exclusively a problem for the police. It is also a problem for the council, for education authorities, for health services and many others."

As part of the crackdown on the dealers, Hackney Drug Prevention Team have £75,000 to hand out in grants to residents setting up their own drug-busting clubs.

They can be contacted on 081 985 8506. There is also an anonymous drugs hotline to shop the dealers, 071 488 7164.

HC 26.4.91



Friends comforting Anne-Marie and her daughter yesterday after they were evicted from the three-bedroom squat in Hackney, east London, that has been the family's home for the past three years. Right: A squatter checks household belongings Photographs: Brian Harris



Purge on squatters starts with dawn raid

SAMUEL MOORE woke up yesterday morning to find policemen and council officials on the doorstep of the house in Hackney, east London, that he, his girlfriend and their young daughter have occupied for the past three years.

Police and council officials arrived at 6am, carrying all the tools necessary to gain entry to locked and guarded flats. Within 30 minutes they had cleared three properties.

Other residents, both legal and illegal from the heavily-squatted estate, began to gather around each front door as the officials demanded that the occupants opened the door and left quietly.

Most did, but one squatter who demanded that he be shown the certificate that gave the council the right to evict him and his 21-year-old girlfriend was arrested.

Mr Moore claims he and his girlfriend Anne-Marie were forcibly evicted from the three-bedroom home that they have been squatting in, only to be moved into emergency accommodation in a one-bedroom flat even though they have been told that they are a priority case.

Edmund Hall reports on the complaints, tears and an arrest that followed change in a council's policy

"What are we going to do?" he said. "We have asked for temporary accommodation and have been told that we are a priority need, but Hackney [council] haven't got their act together."

After much argument council officials conceded that a mistake might have been made and that a new home should be found immediately for the family.

"It's just crazy," Mr Moore said. "This was a burnt-out shell three years ago. We scrubbed away the black, painted the walls, rewired, put in the heating and decorated. We have also offered to pay rent. Now the council turn up saying that this place is intended for someone else, although we are a priority housing need anyway. Does that make sense?"



Police officers watching as Samuel Moore (left) argues with Hackney council officials over their right to evict his family from their squat

the process of being legally let to someone else, and that it is a criminal offence for the squatters to remain in the premises.

Holmeleigh Road estate has been occupied by a large number of squatters since 1987, and they claim to have had a positive effect on the local community. One black in particular has become the focus of the squatters' battle.

Whenever squatters face eviction they try to justify their presence in the neighbourhood, but rarely are the local residents genuinely sad to see them go. With one or two exceptions, the legal tenants of Holmeleigh Road are

wholeheartedly behind the squatters' cries. When the squatter was arrested, his girlfriend, stood outside the flat clutching their bedding. She said: "We've been in touch with a case officer at Hack-

ney, and asked for help. I'm already on drugs for depression. I haven't been offered anywhere else, what am I going to do?"

An elderly neighbour, who did not want to be named, stood in her doorway crying. "They were very nice neighbours. We have had squatters next door for four years, and they've all been friendly," she said.

Another resident asked: "Why do they have to leave? It's been much safer since they've been here, they look out for me."

One of the evicted squatters said: "When we moved in to Osted Court it had been empty for seven years. It was a den for druggies to jack-up, and they had trashed it. It was full of rats and flooded. The windows were broken and it was scheduled for demolition."

"Since a group of homeless moved in, in 1987, we have wired it, re-done the plumbing, unblocked the drains, and even done some of the garden. Now it is habitable again, and the council want to evict us. They've got

thousands of empty properties, why don't they use those?"

However, a spokesman for Hackney council was adamant yesterday: "They are illegal squatters, and effectively what they are doing is jumping the housing queue. Once they are evicted they can go to our emergency office and join the waiting list with the other thousands."

Since a single person is unlikely to receive immediate assistance, not qualifying as a "priority need", it is not unlikely that some of those evicted yesterday morning will this evening be spending their second night on the street. Unless, of course, they have broken into another flat and started squatting all over again.

Nineteen flats were cleared of squatters throughout Hackney yesterday, and the considerable number of squatters that are left are waiting for officials to knock on their doors. One Osted Court resident said: "I know it's not a Hackney problem, it's a housing policy problem. There are empty properties and homeless people, but we are not allowed to live in them. I wish someone would sort this mess out."

Lamont tenant's key role in

TAX MASTER
THE SPECIAL SAVINGS SCHEME THAT'S TAX FREE - TWICE!

INDEPENDENT

27.4.91

Wife stabbed at police station

A WOMAN died in hospital last night after being stabbed during a visit to the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington police station in north London.

Scotland Yard said the 25-year-old woman had gone there to meet her husband to discuss the future of their marriage. Two policewomen who had accompanied her left the couple alone together.

When they returned they found her lying on the floor with stab wounds. A lock knife was also found.

Chief Superintendent Roy Clark defended the decision to leave the couple alone together, saying "allowing parties to talk through their difficulties is a legitimate option".

A man has been arrested.

GUARDIAN 30.4.91

Police meet new kids on the block

POLICE have forged new links with kids on a tough Hackney estate by setting up a youth club for them.

Home beat bobby Pc Peter McGowan used to work with gangs on the mean streets of Glasgow's East End in his previous job as a social worker.

The know-how he gained dealing with youngsters on Clydeside is now being put to good use in London's own East End on Lower Clapton's notorious Pembury Estate.

He has helped break down the barriers of mistrust by launching a youth club for kids.

It was set up a fortnight ago and meets every Friday evening in the estate community hall from 6pm to 9pm.

"The response has been terrific with nearly 30 kids turning up for the opening night," said Peter, aged 31.

"There was little for the kids to do before except hang around the estate

and get into trouble or drift into crime.

"Several people on the estate have volunteered to help run it with me and we plan to open it on other evenings in the week."

The youth club is for boys and girls aged between 10 and 16 and activities include snooker, table tennis, five-a-side football, netball, indoor games and competitions.

There are plans to hold a disco as well as a sponsored clean-up of the estate by youth club members.

Police have high hopes and say that the youth club demonstrates what good community policing is all about.

"The relationship between youths and police on the estate has been strained in the past," said Inspector Howard Back, the community liaison officer at Hackney police station.

"But this project is a great opportunity to remove the suspicion and mistrust youngsters have about the police."



● Top of the cops on the Pembury Estate is Pc Peter McGowan, pictured surrounded by youth club members.

Woman dies at police station

AN INDEPENDENT inquiry into the role of police in dealing with marital disputes was demanded this week after a woman was stabbed to death inside the domestic violence unit of Stoke Newington police station.

Women's aid groups, ethnic welfare workers and police watchdogs are backing an urgent call from Hackney North MP Diane Abbott for a full investigation into the death of Vandana Patel on Monday.

Campaigners are also demanding that the problems faced by Asian women in the home must be revealed and tackled more openly.

Jayantibhai Dagibhai Patel, of Hindle House, Arcola Street, Dalston, was remanded in custody at Highbury Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, accused of murdering his 21-year-old second wife at Stoke Newington police station.

He was also charged with assaulting a man, causing him actual bodily harm, at an address in Lower Clapton Road on April 7. Patel is due to re-appear in court on May 29.

Mrs Patel, who is understood to have come to Britain a year ago from Malawi for an arranged marriage with the 33-year-old presser, was discovered by two WPCs who deal full-time with domestic disputes.

Mrs Patel had gone to the domestic violence

by PAUL NEEDHAM

unit for an arranged meeting with her husband and the couple had asked to be left alone to discuss their problems in private.

Ms Abbott said: "It is very alarming. A police station should be a place of safety, and this must be very worrying for women. This casts a bit of a shadow over the station and I'm asking for an independent inquiry."

Jean Myrie, co-ordinator of Hackney Women's Centre, said an independent inquiry should look into police procedures on counselling and whether the domestic violence unit's staff were adequately trained for marriage guidance.

Hackney Asian Association centre manager Ranjit Saha said the local Asian community was shocked at Mrs Patel's death, and added that marital problems in Asian families were often hidden.

Chief Supt Roy Clark, in charge at Stoke Newington, said an inquiry headed by a chief superintendent from another area would look into the handling of the incident and the wider role of the domestic violence unit, and he hoped there was no shadow over the station.

He stressed over 2,500 cases had been dealt with in three years, the police had undoubtedly helped many men and women, and the force was the only 24-hour caring organisation dealing with marital problems.



● Mrs Vandana Patel.

HG
3.5.91

HACKNEY LEADS THE WAY

"A shining example of partnership between the police and a local authority in the fight against crime. Hackney is leading the way for others to follow."

That's the verdict of Shadow Home Office Minister Barry Sheerman on crime prevention work in Hackney. Mr Sheerman visited Hackney Town Hall during National Crime Prevention Week to help local police Superintendent Bill Grahamslaw, Inspector Trevor Hermes and Council Deputy Leader Tommy Sheppard launch a new booklet.

Called "Reversing the Trend" the booklet spells out how local people can help to make Hackney a safer place to live in. It was produced by the Council's Police Research Unit with help from Hackney and Stoke Newington Police Divisions.

Use the form below to order your **FREE** copy. **H**



TO : Police Research Unit, London Borough of Hackney,
Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA.

PLEASE SEND ME ... COPY/COPIES OF THE FREE CRIME
PREVENTION BOOKLET

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

HACKNEY HERALD

3-5-91

Policing domestic violence

WE ARE horrified to hear of the death of Vandana Patel in the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington police station on April 29. We are equally horrified to note Chief Superintendent Roy Clarke's comments that "allowing parties to talk through their difficulties is a legitimate option" (Guardian, April 30).

We are a group of black women who, over the past 11 years, have campaigned around the issue of domestic violence and policing, focusing particularly on Asian women. We have lent our voice to the growing demands for adequate and immediate police response to women whose lives are endangered by male partners within the home. In the face of such campaigning and mounting pressures, the police have launched initiatives, backed by Force Orders and Home Office Circulars, claiming to treat domestic violence incidents like any other criminal offence. They argue that their traditional response of treating domestic violence as a "private" or "family" matter is no longer regarded as acceptable.

The death of Vandana Patel and the subsequent comments of the police are cause for concern. If the police are to treat domestic violence as a criminal offence, as they should, then their overriding duty is to provide protection to the woman who faces violence. It is not then for the police to adopt the role of mediators or the objective of reconciliation between the parties. There is no other criminal offence where the police would seek to reconcile the perpetrator and the victim of a crime, or allow them to "talk through their difficulties" as a "legitimate option". There

is a clear conflict between the stated aims of the police to treat domestic violence as a crime and their practice, which is often akin to "marriage guidance". It leads us to conclude that the police have yet to move away from their perception of domestic violence as outside the scope of "real" police work. The mentality of the door-step police officer, advising couples to "patch up their differences" has found its way into the domestic violence units and has come to be institutionalised.

In our experience "cultural" factors often influence police decisions in their response to domestic violence. Like other professionals, the police often use the multi-cultural argument that "cultural differences" must be respected in the resolution of marital conflicts. The adoption of such differential strategies denies Asian women the choices and alternatives that are often available to other women. We have rejected such dangerous thinking because it silences Asian women and strips them of their rights.

The implications of Vandana Patel's death are far reaching. We demand that the Home Office set up an independent and immediate public inquiry into her tragic but preventable death. We also demand that the police urgently re-examine the role of domestic violence units. What are their terms of reference and the guidelines under which they operate? Who are they meant to serve? And where is the policing of domestic violence heading?

**Hannana Siddiqui and
Pragna Patel.**
Southall Black Sisters,
52 Norwood Road,
Southall,
Middlesex.

GUARDIAN 4.5.91

'Money for keys' probe by fraud squad

Police checking dossier for council homes swindle

TOP cops from Scotland Yard's fraud squad have been called in to probe an alleged "cash for keys" conspiracy in Hackney Council's housing department.

Claims that staff ran their own private accommodation agency within the department - pocketing thousands of pounds in rent - are being investigated by detectives.

The alleged racket is said to have involved council flats being let to individuals and families, who were then duped into making weekly cash payments with official-looking rent books bought from newsagents.

To avoid the flat being allocated legitimately to someone on the waiting list - therefore bringing the swindle to the attention of senior management - the property was put down on the central computer as burned out, wrecked or other-

wise irreparable.

The fraud squad were called in by Liberal Democrat leader, Cllr. Colin Beadle, who handed them a detailed dossier of evidence. Detectives have since met with Hackney Council Chief Executive Jerry White; who also handed over documents.

Cllr Beadle said: "I have been seriously concerned about certain aspects of Hackney's housing department for some time now, and it appears that council properties may well have been misused.

If so, it is a scandal."

A Scotland Yard spokesperson said: "We are aware of allegations that have been made. We are investigating to see if there is any substance to the claims, and if a full-scale inquiry is necessary."

Hackney Council said: "Complaints are always fully investigated and appropriate action taken. This could include disciplinary action under council procedures or referral to the police if criminal or fraudulent activities are suspected."

HC 10.5.91

Yard launches 24-hour armed police patrol units in London

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

ARMED police squads will be on permanent, round-the-clock duty in London for the first time from July 1. Details of the patrols and their operational rules will be disclosed today.

Rover 827s, to be known as ARVs (armed response vehicles), will carry three trained officers equipped with two self-loading carbines and three handguns. The weapons will be kept in a secure compartment and permission will be required from an officer of commander level or above before they are used, Scotland Yard said last night.

The officers will not carry

weapons and will wear normal uniform. The units are intended to be reactive, responding to incidents where weapons have been, are being or may be used. They will not be used in pre-planned operations or as a substitute for specialist firearms officers.

Eight ARVs will eventually be in use in the Metropolitan area, with between three and five on the streets at a time.

The rationale behind the move is that a smaller number of highly-trained officers should deal with firearms incidents. At present, 2,500 officers are authorised to use guns.

The plans were attacked by Liberty (the National Council for Civil Liberties) as militarisation of the police without debate or accountability.

GUARDIAN 10.5.91

Staff sacked for selling off keys

A MASSIVE crackdown on corruption in Hackney Council's housing department is now underway after a "cash for keys" scandal revealed other abuses by staff.

Two council workers were sacked this week for selling keys for empty flats, and another four have been suspended for similar offences. Many more staff are expected to be told to leave as investigations uncover deep-rooted and long-standing corruption.

As the Gazette revealed last week, Scotland Yard's fraud squad has been called in to probe claims that housing staff ran their own private accommodation agency, pocketing thousands of pounds in rent.

by STEWART FOWLER

It is alleged that vacant flats were first marked down on a central computer as burned-out or wrecked, and then rented to foreign students and other people not on the official council waiting list - using rent books bought from newsagents.

At least 40 flats borough-wide are believed to have been rented out this way, and criminal prosecutions are now pending.

The racket was first made public by Liberal Democrat leader, Cllr Colin Beadle, who informed the police. But as Scotland Yard investigated, a probe by Hackney Council's own experts revealed further widespread frauds - within the benefits and housing services section,

and on the part of private landlords.

A council spokesperson said: "These matters have been referred to the local police or the fraud squad as appropriate. Our own Audit Inspectorate and senior housing officers are collaborating with the police in their investigations.

"We are determined to root out corruption wherever it exists."

Cllr Beadle, who has handed police detailed dossiers of evidence on the "cash for keys" swindle, said: "It is a pity it has taken so long for this corruption to come to light - I have been lobbying the council on the subject since last October.

"But I am very pleased that the council and police are at last acting on information received.

"I believe people high up in the council are involved in this, and it is something that won't go away."

Women demand increased protection

ANGRY Asian women are taking to the streets to demand more protection from the police over domestic violence following the death of a woman at Stoke Newington station.

Scores of women have staged two protest demos outside the police station in the last week, and launched a nationwide Vandana Patel Support Campaign, in memory of the 21-year-old who died

in the station's Domestic Violence Unit a fortnight ago.

They are demanding an end to attempts by the police and women's refuges to reconcile couples, a full review of how such units work and whether police officers get the right training to cope with domestic violence issues.

The police now say they expect an internal inquiry into Mrs Patel's death

and the role of the DVU to finish within a few weeks, and the findings are likely to be made public.

A police spokesperson confirmed the inquiry would cover the role of the units, but stressed many women's organisations considered they did a good job. The inquiry was likely to be completed within a few weeks and its findings published.



● The shape of things to come? Armed officers such as these are to be based at Old Street in Shoreditch.

Armed police to be based behind court

POLICE patrols permanently armed with high-powered weapons will soon be taking to the streets of London from a high-security base at Shoreditch.

A team of police cars carrying a deadly arsenal of rifles and pistols will have their headquarters behind Old Street Magistrates' Court.

The HQ is already used as a base for Scotland Yard's crack PT17 fire-arms unit - the Blue Berets - but this is the first time that police have ever mounted 24-hour patrols for armed officers.

Up to five cars will be on duty at a time, each with a

three-man team, and will drive around London ready to react instantly to an emergency call. They will be a first-response unit, expected to contain any incident until PT17's specialist marksmen arrive, but would open fire if the situation demanded it.

The customised armed response vehicles will look like normal police cars, but will include a locked compartment in the boot where the guns will be kept.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The teams will begin operating from their base at City Road on July 1, and will wear ordinary police uniform."

Man found hanging in police station cell

A DETAINEE suffering from mental stress has tried to kill himself at Stoke Newington police station.

David Parrish was found hanging semi-conscious from a shoelace at the station.

Officers and an ambulance crew who were already at the station revived him and Mr Parrish, believed to be in his fifties, was taken to Homerton Hospital for treatment.

Police claim the fact he was found alive shows checks on detainees are working properly. Mr Parrish, whose family

lives in Benthall Road, Stoke Newington, was detained last Saturday afternoon following an incident with a neighbour, and was found at 9pm when an alarm bell in another cell was heard ringing.

Det Sgt Tony Steel said Mr Parrish was known to be suffering from mental stress. A police spokesperson said: "Due to the prompt response of officers, the incident resulted in no permanent harm to the man.

"We had no formal record of suicide attempts, and the check system appears to have worked."

HC 17.5.91

Police seize frightening arsenal of firearms

FRIGHTENING proof that machine guns and other illegal automatic weapons are in the hands of Hackney's drug gangs and criminals was shown by police this week.

Enough deadly firearms to equip a small army were put on display after a six-month under-cover operation recovered an arsenal of weapons.

And senior officers warned that Hackney could become a battleground as rival drug syndicates shoot it out on the streets for supremacy.

Top cops are worried that more and more of Hackney's criminals are carrying guns, with gangs like the Yardies using outlawed automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

Since the secret launch of Operation Shades last September, 55 people have been arrested in Hackney for possessing firearms - together with £189,000 worth of drugs, including crack and cannabis.

The special operation, centred around a six-strong team of detectives, was set in motion after a spate of shootings and killings on the Lower Clapton Road last summer, which led to frightened shopkeepers threatening to arm themselves if police didn't act to stop the terror.

Yardie gangs are believed to be behind many of the weapons that find their way onto Hackney's streets. The organised gangs model themselves on Jamaica's feared criminals, and detectives raiding homes in dawn raids have found many photographs of the gangsters posing

by STEWART FOWLER

ing with everything from sawn-off shotguns to revolvers.

Det Supt John Probert, who is leading the round-up of Hackney's gun-toting villains from Arbour Square police station in Stepney, said: "Guns are a status and phallic symbol for these people - the bigger the better, and the faster they fire the better."

"There is an obvious connection between the possession of drugs and the use of firearms. Weapons are used as protection because of inter-gang drug wars, and of the 55 people we have arrested so far for firearms offences, more than half of them were also in possession of drugs."

"They are quite unscrupulous when dealing in drugs, particularly crack. All of them will have weapons of some description, and increasingly it is a firearm. People are beginning to carry and use them as a matter of course."

"The weapons we have recovered are just the tip of the iceberg. There are a lot in existence, and they are reasonably easy to get hold of, which is of great concern to us."

"But this is an on-going operation and we are delighted with the results so far. It has been very successful and the more weapons we take off the streets, the better."

Every raid on known criminals has been supported by Scotland Yard's specialist PT17 firearms unit, and all the arrests were carried out without a shot being fired.



● Det Supt John Probert and Commander Dave Kendrick with some of the deadly weapons they have recovered.

A great example of police co-operation

I WAS disgusted to read that it is proposed to withdraw the Hackney officers from the Highbury Vale police station and that the Hackney part of Finsbury Park should be policed directly by Hackney Police Division.

The Finsbury Park police unit has been operating successfully for almost 10 years. Finsbury Park is an area cutting across three boroughs and it has been policed successfully by the unit at Highbury Vale police station which was formed with the co-operation of three police divisions. It consists of about 10 officers and a sergeant and has been hailed as a success by the local residents.

It would be a retrograde step if this successful local police station should have to go. It serves Finsbury Park well and is a great example of cross-boundary co-operation.

I write to support the Finsbury Park Action Group in their endeavours in this matter. As a Hackney councillor living in the area, I am concerned about any adverse impact upon the local community should Highbury Vale police station fold. - CLIFF HOWARD HYMAN, WILBERFORCE ROAD, FINSBURY PARK.

Mourners aim to lobby nationwide



● Angry faces outside Stoke Newington police station as demonstrators protest over the death of Vandana Patel.

MORE than 150 women laid wreaths and observed a minute's silence outside Stoke Newington police station in a moving tribute to Vandana Patel, killed in the building's domestic violence unit.

Young and elderly alike protested at the 21-year-old's death, and demanded an urgent public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident last month.

And organisers of the Remember Vandana Patel Campaign are now planning to take their fight nationwide after

winning the support of aid and welfare groups throughout London.

At the demo last Thursday, every one of the women, most of them Asian, laid a single flower in memory of the young wife, who lived at Hindle House, Arcola Street, Dalston.

As well as a public inquiry, the campaign is demanding a review of police policy and practices in domestic violence units, and an end to attempts by officers and referees to attempt reconciliation instead of increasing protection for abused women.

A spokesperson said: "We're going to make this a national campaign and want as many individuals and organisations as possible to join us."

Asian women faced racist and patronising attitudes from officers who put violence down to cultural and religious differences, interpreters were not provided and the problem was swept under the carpet, she claimed.

● The campaign is based at the Newham Asian Women's Project which can be contacted on 081 472 0528.

HS
24.5.91

Council staff may have pocketed government cash

Fresh twist in housing probe

HACKNEY Council's housing department scandal took a new twist this week as Fraud Squad detectives investigated allegations that council staff and bed-and-breakfast hoteliers pocketed huge sums in government housing subsidy.

The new probe comes as Town Hall bosses suspended another eight council staff in the housing department for suspected fraud. Altogether, 12 staff have been suspended and another two sacked.

The continuing cash-for-keys corruption inquiry has already uncovered evidence of deep-rooted and wide-ranging fraud. The Gazette has copies of signed documents by one "tenant," who says he paid a named council officer £1,200 in cash for the keys to a council flat.

At least 40 other flats are believed to have been rented out in this way to people not on the official waiting list, with council staff pocketing thousands of pounds in rent.

Now detectives are working on information from property agent George Ioannou, who rents out flats and houses to the council. He says homes on his books have been kept empty so that corrupt council officers and hotel owners can pocket government housing benefit for keeping families in bed and breakfast.

Mr Ioannou says 30 of the 160 homes he leases to the council - at a cost of £1,000 per month each - have been empty, some as far back as August, yet families are still being placed in bed-and-breakfast hotels costing £1,760 a week for a family of three.

He says he has told the council on numerous occasions about the empty homes but that nothing has been done to fill them. A dossier of information has

been passed to Scotland Yard's Company Fraud Squad, who confirmed they were making enquiries.

Commenting on the latest eight suspensions of staff in the council's housing department, Hackney's housing boss, Cllr Linda Hibberd, pledged to stamp out corruption.

"We just want to get rid of corruption within the housing department," she said. "The borough can ill afford to run a proper service on the money that we are given, without the added problem of some staff making huge profits."

"They are getting a good salary as members of staff, but they are making huge profits that we could be using for vital repairs."

"As far as I am aware none of the properties Mr Ioannou manages are vacant and he does not manage the 30 properties he is talking about," Cllr Hibberd added.

Colleagues pay tribute

POLICE chiefs in Hackney have come up with their own special tribute to murdered City Road copper Laurence Brown, who was gunned down in cold blood last summer.

Crazed killer Mark Gaynor was sentenced to life imprisonment for the shooting, after the 27-year-old Pc was lured to his death in a car park at Orwell Court on Haggerston's Suffolk Estate.

A commemorative plaque has already been put up in the foyer of City Road police station, and there are plans to erect a monument on the site of the killing.

Now police chiefs have agreed that Pc "Larry" Brown's identification number - the silver letters and numerals that all police officers wear on their uniforms - will never again be issued.

Noisy demo as man faces murder charge

FIFTY women held a peaceful but noisy demonstration outside Highbury Magistrates' Court on Wednesday when a 33-year-old man accused of murdering his wife at a police station appeared on remand.

The women demanded a public inquiry to look into police attitudes and facilities concerning the issue

of domestic violence.

When the defendant - Jayantibhai Dagibhai Patel, 33, of Hindle House, Arcola Street, Dalston - appeared in the dock amid tight security, charged with murdering his second wife Vandana Patel, 21, at Stoke Newington Police Station, the demonstrators packed the public gallery.

The incident was alleged to

have happened during a visit by the couple to the domestic violence unit at the police station on April 29 to sort out their matrimonial problems.

Patel is further charged with causing actual bodily harm to Kada Tudescma at an address in Upper Clapton Road on April 7.

Patel will appear again on June 26.

Police are not abandoning the area

THE letter from Cllr Howard Hyman (last week's Gazette) displays a lack of understanding of the policing of his area and is factually inaccurate.

Highbury Vale Police Station is NOT closing and the Hackney part of Finsbury Park will be policed by Stoke Newington and not Hackney Division. The subject was fully discussed at a sub-committee meeting of the Finsbury Park Action Group on May 14 when I gave an assurance that police were not abandoning the area.

The special police unit has been in existence for many years and - as agreed by Cllr Hyman - has been successful. It has achieved exactly what it set out to achieve and has reduced crime, vice and anti-social behaviour to a level where they are far below levels found elsewhere.

The continued existence of a special police unit in a relatively peaceful area while others have greater problems of robbery, burglary, drug dealing and vice would show a lack of judgement and equity in me as a police professional. All other concerned senior officers were party to the decision and were in agreement.

To repeat the fine details of my assurance to the Finsbury Park Action Group in this letter is not possible or appropriate. I did, however, undertake to continuously strive to increase the quality of the police service in this and all other areas for which I am responsible. I know my colleagues join me in this task. - ROY CLARK, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION.

HG 31.5.91

Senior Labour councillor suspended in fraud probe

A SENIOR Labour councillor is among the 12 people suspended from their jobs following allegations of fraud in Hackney Council's housing department, it was revealed this week.

And as the corruption inquiry continued, the man responsible for bringing it to public notice accused Town Hall bosses of allowing valuable witnesses to escape.

Liberal Democrat leader Colin Beadle met with top cops from Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad yesterday (Thursday) to discuss claims that detailed information he gave to Hackney Council on the alleged housing scam was never passed on to detectives.

Cllr Beadle said: "I have written to the government and talked to the Fraud Squad asking for a special Task Force to be sent in to Hackney to take over the investigation, because I am not convinced the council has the resources, the will, or the capability to do the job properly."

"A man has admitted to me that he bought keys to a council flat for cash from a named housing officer, yet this man has now been evicted without any formal statement being obtained - not even an address where he can

be contacted in future!

"The officers involved in this blunder should be disciplined, as it is possible their motives for engineering this event may themselves be suspect."

Meanwhile, Mohammed Javed - a senior Hackney Council housing officer responsible for allocating flats - has admitted he has been suspended from his £25,000-a-year job.

Hackney Council has consistently refused to comment on details of the inquiry, and would not confirm or deny whether Mr Javed - the deputy Labour group leader in Redbridge - had been suspended.

But in a joint statement with his union NALGO, Mr Javed said: "The council has not provided any specific grounds for this suspension. I am therefore in the position of not knowing what accusations, if any, may be made against me."

"I strongly believe I have carried out my duties efficiently and conscientiously, and have not breached the law or council policy."

● A Hackney Council estates manager has appeared in court accused of dishonestly obtaining free temporary council housing for herself and her family in another borough.



● Cllr Colin Beadle.



● Cllr Linda Hibberd.

'Cash for keys' family is threatened with eviction

A FAMILY involved in Hackney Council's "cash for keys" scandal has been threatened with eviction while a senior housing officer has admitted that 30 homes leased to the council for £350,000-a-year are empty.

Two years ago, Allison Steppings claims she paid £150 to a council housing officer for the keys to a flat on the George Downing Estate, Upper Clapton.

On Monday, the borough's housing department told her that she and her two kids, aged two and five, were to be evicted and put in a temporary furnished flat in Wood Green.

"I sent dozens of letters to the council saying I wanted to pay the rent, but they said they didn't receive them," she said.

Twelve hours before the bailiffs were due, the council backed down and a spokesperson told the Gazette the family would have their status reassessed.

But other people who bought keys may not be so lucky even if they genuinely believed they were paying "rent" to the council and not to corrupt housing officers.

A council spokesperson added: "Each

case will be looked at on its merits, but if we discover that people are unlawfully occupying our property then they will be evicted if we do not have a statutory duty to rehouse them."

Last week in the Gazette, Hackney's housing boss Cllr Linda Hibberd denied that 30 homes leased to the council by property agent George Ioannou were empty.

But in a taped conversation on May 20, the deputy director of housing, Mr Peter Hall, admitted to Mr Ioannou that the properties were empty, having employed a City Road firm called CSL to check on every family in temporary housing.

"If the properties are empty - and I believe that they are from our own survey - I am giving you authorisation to force entry because we need the keys," said Mr Hall.

Mr Ioannou asked for written confirmation of the authorisation, but says three weeks later the homes - in Tottenham and Hackney - are still empty because he has not received written permission to get in.

Cllr Hibberd would not comment on Mr Hall's admission.

Euro courses

POLICE at Hackney, Stoke Newington and City Road stations who want to gear up for 1992 by learning to speak another language can apply to go on short courses in France, Spain and Germany.

Suicide bid leaves cop killer in coma

DEATH wish cop killer Mark Gaynor is still in a coma nine weeks after trying to hang himself in a prison cell - and he may be a vegetable for the rest of his life.

His family now face the trauma of deciding whether or not to have his life-support machine switched off.

The 21-year-old murderer, from Brownlow Road, Haggerston, cold-bloodedly gunned down

Pc Laurence Brown in the car park of Orwell Court in Pownall Road, Haggerston, last summer, but he couldn't cope with the thought of a life sentence behind bars.

He first tried to slash his neck and wrists during his Old Bailey trial and appeared in court with bandages covering his wounds. The twisted killer had earlier told detectives: "They should bring back hanging and make me swing, or electrocute me."

When his suicide bid failed, he tried again.

Prison warders at Wormwood Scrubs found him hanging in his cell at the end of May, a noose made from bedsheets wrapped around his neck.

Ever since then, a prison warder has stood guard 24 hours a day at his bedside in the intensive care unit at Hammersmith Hospital.

A hospital spokesperson said: "He is very, very ill and has been in a coma since he was brought here. We could keep him alive indefinitely. It would be his family's decision whether or not to switch off his life-support machine."

Lonely death for cop killer

MARK Gaynor, the twisted killer of Hackney Pc Laurence Brown, has died in hospital - 10 weeks after he was found hanging from a noose in his prison cell.

After more than two months in a coma, mostly spent on a life-support machine, he died in the early hours of Saturday morning without ever regaining consciousness.

His death came as a relief to the grieving family of the murdered City Road copper, who now hope they can put the trauma behind them once and for all.

The 21-year-old killer, who lived in Brownlow Road, Haggerston, was sentenced to life imprisonment after luring the constable to an ambush in nearby Pownall Road with a hoax 999 call last August, then shooting him at point-blank range with a sawn-off shotgun.

But Gaynor - Britain's youngest cop killer - couldn't cope with the thought of life behind bars, and tried to commit suicide a number of

times and at the end of May warders at Wormwood Scrubs found him hanging in his cell from a noose made out of bedsheets.

He was rushed to Hammersmith Hospital in a coma, but doctors could do little for him. When he died, he was in solitary confinement on a special ward, with only a full-time prison guard for company. No family or friends were at his side.

Pc Brown's 28-year-old widow, Janet, their 13-month-old daughter Emma, and the rest of his family are still trying to come to terms with their loss.

The young constable's father, Peter, said: "Nothing will ever bring my son back, but Mark Gaynor's death will help us put this thing behind us. It is an end to another chapter in a long-running saga."

"Everything dragged on so long, after 12 months things are only now beginning to settle down. Although there are bound to be times in the future that will bring all this back, hopefully Gaynor's death will help end the trauma."



● Mark Gaynor



● Pc Laurence Brown

Gun denial

SCOTLAND YARD has officially denied reports that the SAS and sister organisation, the Special Boat Service, have joined operations carried out by armed officers from the crack PT17 squad which is based in Old Street, Shoreditch.

Vice control

EXTRA police have been assigned to ridding Stoke Newington's red-light district of prostitutes, top cop Chief Supt Roy Clark told Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group.

A special Street Offences Unit of 14 officers and a sergeant had been formed and the vice problem had been displaced over a wider area, he explained.

Machete attack on council man



A COUNCIL worker and a policeman were recovering after being slashed with a machete in an incident which escalated into a police siege in Lower Clapton on Monday morning.

Environmental health officer John Lawrence was severely cut on both arms and Pc Ian Agar suffered a leg wound when they tried to serve a court access order at a house in Blurton Road.

More than 20 officers with riot shields surrounded the terraced home before the 30-minute siege ended peacefully when Hackney PCs Rod Sturman and Mick Stonestreet calmed the occupant down.

Mr Lawrence was treated at Homerton Hospital for his injuries but then transferred to St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, for micro-surgery. Pc Agar, whose beat includes Blurton Road, was not detained.

Chief Insp Ken Day, of Hackney police, said: "Mr Lawrence was courageous in trying to protect the police officer. I cannot praise his bravery highly enough and it's a tragedy he should have suffered such injuries."

A 37-year-old man appeared at Old Street Magistrates Court on Wednesday, charged with grievous bodily harm.

Watchdog splits over new venue

HACKNEY'S Police Community Consultative Group has voted to meet elsewhere in future after the hall it has used for three years was the venue for the launch of a rival police watchdog group.

But the decision to stop holding meetings at Dalston's Roots Pool Development Association in Arcola Street has split the group.

Opponents of the move are afraid it will send out the wrong signals to the borough's ethnic minorities, because the centre is used predominantly by the black community.

Consultative group chairperson Betty Blomfield claimed pressure had come from the Home Office to switch venues after what she described as an "anti-po-

lice meeting" was allowed to be held at the hall in April.

The meeting was the launch of PAID - People Against Injustice and Disparity - which Gloria Van Cooten, a former member of the borough's police lay visitors' panel, set up to investigate complaints of ill-treatment by police.

Betty Blomfield - who is also chair of the lay visitors' panel - explained to the consultative group that Mrs Van Cooten had been kicked off the panel by the then Home Secretary in 1989 "because of her disruptive behaviour."

"In protest at Roots Pool allowing the hall to be used for an anti-police meeting we have decided to seek an alternative venue," she said.

But other members felt that the group was setting itself up as a self-appointed censor, while others expressed concern at how the black community would per-

ceive the group's decision to leave.

"It is a section of the community which is already under-represented on the police consultative group, and we should think very carefully about what messages we send to them by not having our meetings here anymore," said Reverend Chris Bryce, vicar of St Michael's Church in London Fields.

Charlie Collins, who runs the Roots Pool Development Association, said its future was already threatened because of uncertainty over its council grant and the decision of the consultative group to leave would only hasten its closure.

The vote in favour to change venues was won by eight votes to six, with police representatives abstaining.

One possible suggested new venue was the MOTHS (Memorable Order of Tin Hats) Club in Valette Street, Hackney.

HG 14.6.91

Twenty homes are raided each day!

Burglars take a cool £5 million every year

by RUSS LAWRENCE

SHOCK figures for break-ins in Hackney have caused alarm after police revealed 20 homes and businesses in the borough are burgled every day!

It means people living in the borough's 76,000 homes stand a one-in-14 chance of having it burgled.

Hackney's police watchdog group was told a total of 7,539 burglaries were carried out in 1990 – an average of 628 a month and 145 a week.

At least 5,300, or 67 per cent of them, were domestic burglaries, Det Supt Bill Grainslaw told last week's Police Community Consultative Group meeting.

But that was just the tip of the iceberg because many more go unreported, he explained.

Junkies carrying out burglaries to finance their drug habit was the main factor, coupled with Hackney's high levels of unemployment, a lower standard of living and problems of inner-city deprivation, he said.

The total value of the property stolen

THE GRIM STATISTICS OF ROBBERY:

- Borough residents have a one-in-14 chance of being burgled.
- A total of over 7,500 burglaries were carried out in 1990.
- Only £125,000-worth of goods were ever recovered by the police.

in burglaries in Hackney last year was £5 million, of which only £127,163-worth of property was recovered.

The most vulnerable premises were council flats, houses converted into flats or multi-occupied dwellings.

Video recorders and televisions were the thieves' main targets because they were easy to sell.

Maurice Owen, of the North London Council of Christians and Jews, blamed the low burglary clear-up rate on police

screening out most of them and just recording details.

But Det Supt Grainslaw said the object was to ensure limited police manpower was directed to those burglaries where clues and evidence meant it likely they would catch someone.

"Combating burglary has always been a top police priority. But it is also the responsibility of the council, the courts and the government in providing resources," he said.



Police greet gendarmes

'ALLO, 'allo, 'allo... six top French police officers swapped their Paris duties for the Inner-city beat when they visited Hackney police station.

The six officers, equivalent to our superintendent rank, are from the top-notch Ecole Supérieure De La Gendarmerie in Paris and came to Eng-

land on Tuesday last week for a special two-day visit to the Metropolitan Police.

It was part of a tour around European cities to find out how their police forces operate and a main aim was to pave the way for good relations with the French police for 1992.

During their visit to Hackney nick in Lower Clapton Road last week, the officers were told about the problems of policing a hard-up, crime-ridden inner-city patch.

They also had a close look at the central computerised system for taking emergency 999 calls.

HC 14.6.91

Met denies risk of rebuffing Labour

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND Yard acted swiftly yesterday to defuse a potential political row over a leaked discussion document which considered as an option non-cooperation with a Labour government on issues where they differed.

The discussion document, circulated two weeks ago to the Metropolitan police's 140 senior managers, examined the possible effects of a Labour government on policing.

While accepting that in certain areas — racial attacks, do-

mestic violence, child abuse — the Labour Party and Met police policy was close, the document suggested: "There may be aspects of our policy which prove totally incompatible with anything suggested by the Labour Party."

Two areas of potential disagreement were Labour Party attitudes to electronic surveillance, which favour notifying the person under surveillance, and the possibility of the Labour Party diverting funds to crime prevention methods used by local government and thus away from the police.

Yesterday a statement from Scotland Yard stressed that the document was for discussion

and did not represent policy.

"The document was used to stimulate discussion at the commissioner's conference," said the statement. "It does not represent policy but is deliberately designed to provoke discussion." The statement said such discussion formed part of the Met's new five year plan.

The briefing, written for a conference on June 2 at Hendon Police College, looked at the political scene under the theme "How should we prepare for a possible change of government?"

Both the Labour Party and the police are anxious to avoid the document prompting a major row. The Police Federa-

tion and the Association of Chief Police Officers have made it plain this year that they could quite happily work with a Labour government.

Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, has gone on record as saying that he has a good working relationship with Labour's home affairs team of Roy Hattersley and Barry Sheerman. The days of Leslie Curtis, his predecessor who said that there was a possibility the police could not work with Labour, have passed.

Equally, senior officers in Acpo have indicated that they now see no serious problems with a Labour government. Some aspects of Labour policy

referred to in the paper, such as an elected police authority for London, which Labour favours, have been publicly endorsed by senior officers.

Commander Alec Marnoch, head of Scotland Yard's Plus Programme, which seeks better relationships with the community, has stated at a policing conference that he would back an elected authority and police accountability to it.

There is also disillusionment within the police for the current government and its perceived hidden agenda — rationalising the police in a similar way to the National Health Service and increased privatisation of police functions.

C. V. R. 17.6.91

A brush with success

THE gift of a framed picture to decorate the special rape suite at Stoke Newington police station was donated by the borough's police lay visitors' panel.

The special rape suite is fully furnished and resembles a lounge, so rape victims can receive counselling in comfortable and pleasant surroundings.

The borough's 28 lay visitors are appointed by the Home Office and check on the welfare and conditions of detainees held in custody in cells at the borough's three police stations.

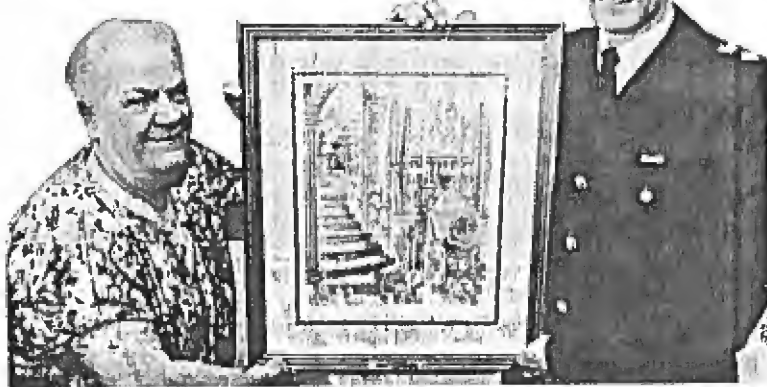
Betty Blomfield, chairperson of the lay visitors' panel, is pictured handing over the picture to Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, at a presentation ceremony.

The panel also donated £15 to buy a hair drier for women using the rape suite's shower and washing facilities.

Two other members of the panel donated book-cases and books for use by prisoners at Hackney and City Road police stations.

"The reading material will help relieve the boredom and, perhaps, stop prisoners scrawling graffiti on the cell walls," said Betty Blomfield.

"It will also mean less aggravation for the police if the detainees have something to keep them occupied."



Riot police on false alert

UP to 40 riot police, some armed with handguns and shields, surrounded Rogate House on the Nightingale Estate in Lower Clapton late on Wednesday night after reports that shots had been fired by a gunman.

It turned out to be a false alarm, although a man was arrested in possession of an air rifle.

Supt Stuart Giblin, from Stoke Newington police station, said: "We had no way of knowing what gun this man was armed with and, obviously, we couldn't take a chance. It wasn't long ago that a police officer was shot dead."

Problem resurfaces after police crackdown

Anger as vice girls move round corner

ANGRY residents have blamed police for shifting the problem of prostitution off Hackney's streets and on to the doorsteps of homes in neighbouring Haringey.

They say the success of a crackdown by Stoke Newington police on Stamford Hill's red light district has meant vice girls have moved from Amburst Park and Hillside Road to a street corner just over the boundary at Wargrave Avenue in South Tottenham.

Homeowners say the girls have turned what was once a quiet and select area into a pick-up spot.

It comes just weeks after Stoke Newington police set up a temporary mobile police station at Amburst Park and shifted in extra officers to tid the area of prostitutes and kerb crawlers.

But residents of nearby Wargrave Avenue say prostitutes are now openly plying their trade on the street corner. One householder claims girls have approached him twice as he was getting out of his car outside his front gate.

"A group of four or five of them arrive

about 10pm and hang around until the early hours. The sound of car doors hanging keeps everyone awake," said 59-year-old Kenneth Huggard.

"Ordinary, respectable women are afraid to walk down the road in the evening for fear of being pestered by kerb crawlers. We are sure a lodging house in the road is also being used by them as a brothel."

"My young daughter's bedroom window overlooks the spot where the women stand," said the boss of a newsagent's shop on the corner, who didn't want to be named for fear of reprisals.

"She asks me what they are doing there, but how do you explain it to a young child?" added Mr Huggard.

Tottenham police admit the clampdown by Stoke Newington's vice unit has displaced the prostitutes. "When a concerted drive like that takes place you get a knock-on or ripple effect and the problem can spill over into other divisions," said Chief Insp Mike Batt at Tottenham police station.

"The matter has been brought to our attention and we will be taking steps to tackle it."

Door-to-door probe to cost £250,000

Who-lives-where inquiry over housing scandal

HACKNEY Council is to spend £250,000 finding out who is living in its property, with door-to-door inquiries at every home in the borough if necessary.

Tenants will be forced to prove they are living in the property legally, after Town Hall bosses admitted that housing records are in such a mess they no longer know exactly who lives where.

A pilot study on one Hackney council estate has already been carried out as part of the investigation into the alleged multi-million-pound cash for keys conspiracy. The number of illegal occupants was so high that a borough-wide probe was ordered.

A 10-strong team will be set up next month, at a cost of £150,000, to check every council property in Hackney - nearly 46,000 flats and houses. A City Road firm has already been paid £90,000 to check the 3,000 properties leased by

the council from private landlords to house homeless families, and found 150 of them empty.

The move is a direct result of the corruption probe into Hackney's housing and benefits departments, which has seen four council workers sacked and another 13 suspended. One Tory councillor estimates the final bill for fraud could be as much as £40 million.

Scotland Yard's fraud squad and the council's own inquiry team say they will investigate all allegations of corruption. These include claims that some council officers:

- Sold keys to council flats for £1,000 a time.
- Pocketed "rents" of £100 a week.
- Colluded with private landlords to claim housing benefit for non-existent tenants.
- Falsified eviction orders for squatters, and then rented out the property privately.

● Advertised council flats for rent in African newspapers for students coming to London to study.

● Charged council tenants to be transferred to a better flat or house.

Investigators are also questioning unauthorised tenants who have tried to buy their flats from the council, and others who have paid rent to the council in the name of a former legal tenant.

Other council departments have become involved as the inquiry continues, with claims that staff used council materials to redecorate flats before they were let to unauthorised "tenants."

Hackney Council leader John McCafferty said: "I feel anger and rage at the way these evil and unscrupulous people are ripping off our tenants. When I heard there was evidence of council staff involvement in fraud my reaction was: 'Get them - whatever it takes.' We will continue to turn over evidence to the police in the hope that prosecutions will follow."

MP backs a crackdown to block racist marches

RACE-HATE marches through Bethnal Green should be banned, the area's police chief said this week.

Superintendent Ivan Sterling said stronger police powers to halt demos which might incite racial strife, although hitting free speech, would make the force's task much easier.

And Bethnal Green MP, Peter Shore, called for a tougher Public Order Act allowing a crackdown on what he called right-wing thugs, who had created an atmosphere of fear and tension with marches and rallies in the neighbourhood.

Their demands echoed a call by Scotland Yard chief, Sir Peter Imbert, for the government to bring in a new law permitting the po-

lice to ban marches likely to create an atmosphere of tension in a community. At present a ban is only possible if the march is likely to provoke violence.

Supt Sterling said: "I would be in favour, although it's very much a political matter. The present law creates problems as we have to police areas afterwards, but it involves the right to free speech, so that's why it's a political decision."

Mr Shore said: "I warmly welcome the call for a strengthening of the Public Order Act to prevent provocative marches by racist groups in areas such as Bethnal Green and Stepney, where a small group of right-wing thugs has created an atmosphere of fear and tension."

Safety at station should be the priority

ON behalf of the Amburst Park Action Group (APAG), I would like to respond to last week's letter from Paul Wilkins concerning the call for the early closing of Stamford Hill station.

The article to which he referred had some key words missing. APAG is, in the first instance, calling for Stamford Hill station to be adequately manned full-time and ONLY if all other options are exhausted are we suggesting that early closing MIGHT have to be considered as a safety aspect.

However, let me put Mr Wilkins' mind at rest - APAG feel that the council and British Rail should be able to undertake a joint project to ensure that the station is made safe and accessible for all passengers, rather than restrict its use.

We totally agree that tackling the problem at source is the answer and the chief superintendent of Stoke Newington police has shown and voiced his commitment to this end. APAG itself is actively lobbying for changes in legislation, but at this is unlikely to happen in the immediate future, local people are reliant on the co-operation of the police, council and other appropriate authorities to improve the situation. - MURIEL GORDON, JOINT SECRETARY, AMBURST PARK ACTION GROUP.

Watchdog group organiser raps anti-police allegation

A CAMPAIGNER against injustice has hit out at attempts to discredit the police watchdog group she set up.

Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group decided to stop holding meetings at Dalston's Roots Pool hall last week, because it claimed an "anti-police meeting" was allowed to be held there.

But Gloria Van Coolen, who used the hall for the launch of Police Against Injustice and Disparity (PAID), has strongly denied it is an anti-police group.

"The organisation exists simply to take up genuine cases of injustice," she said "and I've already had meetings with two Chief Superintendents from Islington and Leman Street police stations.

"Roots Pool is being made a scapegoat by the consultative group which has deliberately put its future in jeopardy."

HC 21.6.91

Car theft tops list as crime leaps 18pc

David Sharrock

THE number of crimes recorded in England and Wales leapt by 18 per cent in the 12 months to the end of March, the Home Office said yesterday.

Labour said the dramatic rise, three times the annual average increase for the whole of the last decade, was an indictment of the Government's crime prevention policies.

The Liberal Democrats called the rise appalling and said youth crime was at the core of the problem. It was joined by the Association of Chief Officers of Probation in calling for a need to target youth crime more effectively.

But John Patten, the Home Office minister, highlighted the fall in the rate of violent crime. He conceded that property crime, in particular car crime, continued to rise.

"One in three of the additional offences in the latest figures were thefts of or from cars," Mr Patten said.

The Government's recent crime prevention week had generated considerable local support, but it was also necessary to tackle criminal behaviour at its roots. "We intend to explore further what action can be taken to prevent young people turning to crime," he said.

There was a total of 4.7 million notifiable offences recorded during the 12 month period, 94 per cent, or 4.4 million of which were crimes against property, 5 per cent (252,000) against the person and one per cent (32,000) were other types of crime.

Throughout the previous decade crime rose by an average 6 per cent, compared with the 18 per cent increase for the 12 months to March.

The biggest jump occurred in vehicle related crimes, with more than 250,000 more car

crimes, which accounted for more than a third of the overall increase of 705,000 offences.

There were 188,000 more burglaries, with a slightly lower increase for residential burglary (up 91,000, or 20 per cent) than for non-residential (up 97,000, or 24 per cent).

By contrast, there was a relatively small rise in violent crime — just 4 per cent compared with around 10 per cent in the previous three years.

There were an extra 6,000 offences of violence against the person, many less serious woundings.

Sexual offences decreased by 300, or 1 per cent. The Home Office report said this reflected falls in indecency between males and unlawful sexual intercourse with girls under 16. The number of recorded rapes rose by 7 per cent, or 235.

Recorded crime rose in all police areas in England and Wales, but by widely different margins. Bedfordshire suffered the greatest rise at 43 per cent, followed by Leicestershire with 30.4 per cent and Avon and Somerset with 30 per cent.

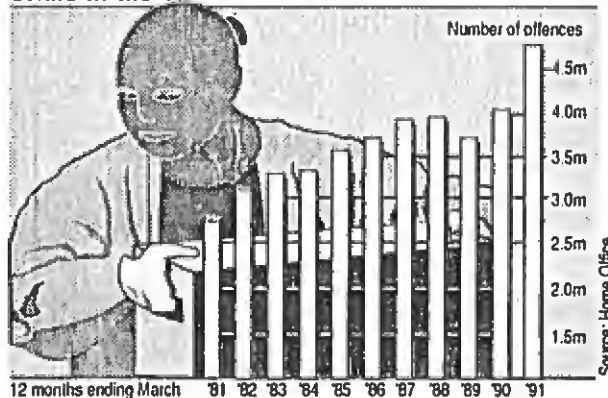
Perhaps the greatest surprise was Merseyside with 3 per cent. It was narrowly squeezed into second place for the lowest rise by the City of London.

On average the big urban metropolitan forces fared better, with a 13 per cent increase, than their county counterparts, where crime was up 22 per cent. Even so, an extra 82,000 crimes were recorded in the metropolitan district of London.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said many offences, particularly burglaries, were preventable through "common-sense security."

Cedric Fullwood, chairman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said most crimes were committed by young males who faced bleak futures with no money, job or accommodation.

Crime in the UK



GUARDIAN

27.6.91

VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS

Housing office's staff walk out after bags are searched for files

AROUND 100 housing office staff from Mare Street staged a walkout this week after Town Hall bosses investigating the cash-for-keys housing scandal ordered searches of personal belongings for official files.

Police were called to the offices on Friday when staff refused to co-operate with management demands that briefcases and bags be searched.

Though police said they had no right to carry out a search, a NALGO official said no-one had been allowed to leave until senior managers were satisfied no files or documents were being taken away.

The walkout closed the housing office on Wednesday afternoon. Everyone involved would have pay docked, the spokesperson added.

A Hackney Council spokesperson said: "Some files were moved from the housing building both for the internal auditors and

the fraud squad. I understand this was done at the request of the police."

But a NALGO official said: "We support the investigation into corruption, but staff are being searched, threatened with legal action and harassed. It's scapegoating to hide the mismanagement here."

Sacking

The latest sacking of a member of the temporary accommodation team comes after detectives charged ex-Hackney Council officer Peter Smith, 47, and his wife Margaret, 43, with the theft of £19,000 from the London Borough of Hackney and £17,000 from Kettering Borough Council.

They will appear at Bow Street Magistrates Court on July 11.

A Hackney Council spokesperson said three more of the 12 council employees now suspended could be dismissed.

Man faces charge of murdering his wife

A DALSTON man was committed in custody for trial at the Old Bailey on Wednesday, accused of murdering his wife at the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington police station during a meeting to sort out their marriage problems.

Jayantibhai Patel, 33, of Arcola Street, is accused of murdering his second wife, 21-year-old, Vandana Patel on April 29.

About 30 demonstrators earlier protested outside Highbury Magistrates' Court against an alleged lack of facilities at police stations for couples to discuss domestic violence.

A further charge of assault causing actual bodily harm to Mr Lada Tudesema at Upper Clapton Road, Upper Clapton, was discharged after prosecutor Mr Stephen Dawson offered no evidence.

Woman badly burned in couple's 'horrific' torture ordeal

by RUSS LAWRENCE

burned that she is likely to be scarred for life.

The sadistic three-man gang, brandishing a sawn-off shotgun, a pistol and a knife, ambushed the couple as they returned to the woman's council flat in Haggerston Road after they had gone to make a call from a nearby public phone box in the early hours of Monday.

The victims, and two women staying with them, were first made to strip and then the couple were tortured until they eventually handed over £600 in cash and some jewellery.

The woman torture victim was still being treated for serious burns at St Bar-

tholomew's Hospital this week. Detectives have branded the attack "horrific" and believe the brutal robbers could be a drugs gang because the area is notorious for dealers and junkies.

All three of the gang wore red polka dot scarves over their faces and are described as black and in their mid-20s.

Disfigured

"These men are dangerous and must be caught before it happens again," said Det Chief Insp Dan Crawley at Hackney police station.

"They didn't care how much pain they inflicted with the iron and the woman will be disfigured for life."

Anyone with information should telephone 071 488 7173.

Young Pc 'comfortable' after being stabbed in the back

A ROOKIE teenage cop was stabbed five times in the back just yards from Hackney police station on Wednesday night.

Probationary Pc Ian Slaney, aged 19, staggered to the police station after being stabbed by a suspect he had gone to question in St John's Churchyard. Blood was pouring from his wounds and he collapsed inside the station.

A man, who had been acting suspiciously, was arrested nearby shortly afterwards and taken to City Road police station, where he was still being questioned yesterday (Thursday).

Pc Slaney, who is based at Hackney, was rushed to Homerton Hospital. His condition is described as "comfortable."

Brutal

It was the second brutal crime in Hackney in a violent week.

Two days earlier armed robbers tortured a Nigerian couple by pressing a red-hot iron on their faces and pouring scalding water over them to get them to reveal where their money was hidden.

The 30-year-old woman was so badly

HC 28.6.91

COUNCIL KICKS OUT THE CROOKS

Hackney Council has taken strong action to stamp out corruption within its Housing and Benefits Services and on the part of private landlords who have dealings with the Council.

"Our main concern is for the tenants and homeless people who are our responsibility" Council Leader John McCafferty told the Herald. "Members of the Council are enraged at the way in which certain evil people have ripped-off the community and exploited the national housing shortage for personal gain. Corruption has no place in public life and it will not be tolerated in this authority. We are determined to kick these crooks out of Hackney."

Both the Council and the Police are investigating allegations of corruption in the Housing Directorate, of fraud on the part of private landlords and of benefit fraud.

FIVE STAFF SACKED

Investigations were started by the Council's Audit Inspectorate in April 1990 and disciplinary action against staff began the following month. So far, the Council has sacked five officers from its Housing and Benefits Services as a result of its internal investigations. Twelve officers from the Housing and Benefits Services are suspended and a further half dozen are under investigation.

POLICE CALLED IN

The Fraud Squad was called in by the Council's Audit Inspectorate in May 1990. Some of the investigations are being undertaken by local Police and some by the Fraud Squad. "I met with senior Police officers recently and they assured me that enough resources have been put into the investigations" said John McCafferty. "They confirmed that there is an excellent working relationship between the Police and the Council and that our officers have made full information available to them. I hope that the guilty people will be prosecuted."

TIGHTER CONTROLS

Some of the irregularities came to light as a result of tighter systems and better management brought in by Director of Housing Bernard Crofton shortly after he started work for Hackney in August 1990. Improvements are continuing, with the aim of both eliminating fraud and making the best possible use of the housing stock. As well as a complete restructuring of the Housing Service, improvements include the clampdown on vacant properties featured in last month's Herald, and a check on tenancies and tenancy records.

TENANCY TEAM

A special officer team is being set up to check all Council tenancies in Hackney and make sure that only people who have a right to live in Council property continue to be housed. "Where unlawful occupants are found we will look at each case on its merits. If we have no legal responsibility to them they will be evicted. We will, of course, honour our obligations to those who have a statutory right to housing, although not necessarily by leaving them in the same dwelling" said John McCafferty. **H**

HACKNEY HERALD

5.7.91

TIME TO STOP VIOLENT THUGS

by
STEWART
FOWLER

HACKNEY'S top cop has called for a borough-wide crackdown on violent crime, just days before a memorial is unveiled to murdered Pc Laurence Brown.

Admitting that Hackney's streets are getting more dangerous every day, Chief Superintendent Bernard Taffs revealed alarming figures showing that even the police are increasingly the target of crazed villains wielding guns, knives and machetes.

Last year, a shocking 510 police officers in Hackney were injured on

Police appeal for help to beat street crime

duty and one killed. Just last week a 19-year-old rookie constable was repeatedly stabbed in the back only yards from Hackney police station.

Senior detectives blame much of the frenzied violence used in robberies on drug-crazed addicts desperate for money to buy crack-cocaine, which has flooded the borough. And there is so much money to be made from the drugs trade that dealers routinely carry firearms for protection.

Chief Supt Taffs warned: "We, as

a community in Hackney, need to repudiate violence - it is repugnant to our way of living.

"Street robbery, which is theft with violence, is of particular concern and is occurring more frequently than last year."

He added that "the level and ferocity of attacks on my officers" was extremely worrying, and called on residents to "shop" what he called the small minority prepared to use weapons against police.

His call for action came as Scotland Yard's top brass and government ministers prepared to honour Hackney Pc Laurence Brown, gunned down by Mark Geynor in the car park of Orwell Court in Pownall Road, Haggerston.

On Monday morning, Home Secretary Kenneth Baker and Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert will unveil a monument to Pc Brown at the site of the killing.

Arranged by famous film director

Michael Winner, as founder of the Police Memorial Trust, the ceremony will be watched by the murdered constable's young widow, Janet, and their baby daughter, Emma.

Flowers will be laid by Pc Peter Townsend, who was with the constable when he was shot.

Chief Supt Bernard Taffs said: "I ask that we all join together for the good of our borough to do all we can to discourage violence.

"I do not want people to feel frightened by crime - it is something we can control if we work together."

Magistrate makes murder bid remand in cell

AN unemployed man accused of attempting to murder a probationary police officer was remanded in custody in his cell at Old Street Magistrates' Court after it took seven officers to place him in there.

Magistrate Mr Dudley Thomas went to the cells last Friday morning to remand David Anthony Moss, 24, of Anderson House, Wyke Es-

tate, Homerton, until today (Friday) charged with attempting to murder Pc Ian Slaney, from Romford.

Pc Slaney, 19, was stabbed three times in the back as he questioned a man in St John's Churchyard in Lower Clapton on Wednesday last week.

He managed to raise the alarm on his radio

and staggered back to Hackney police station near the churchyard in Lower Clapton Road. He was taken to Homerton Hospital and released last Thursday.

Court Inspector Steve Taylor made the application for the proceedings to be held outside Moss's cell, saying: "It took seven officers to get him in there this morning."

Police unit begin armed patrols

ARMED police from a top-security base in Shoreditch began 24-hour patrols on the streets of London for the first time on Monday.

A team of special Armed Response Vehicles, carrying a deadly arsenal of high-powered rifles and pistols, have their headquarters behind Old Street Magistrates' Court.

The building is already used as a base for Scotland Yard's crack PT17 firearms unit - the Blue Berets - but this is the first time police have mounted 24-hour patrols for heavily armed

officers. Their customised vehicles will look like normal police cars, but will have a locked compartment in the boot for the guns.

Up to five of these cars will be on duty at any one time, each with a three-man team on board, driving around London ready to react instantly to any emergency.

The idea is for the teams to be a first-response unit, containing any incident - such as an armed robbery - until PT17's specialist marksmen arrive. But they will open fire if necessary.

HACKNEY GAZETTE

5.7.91

HACKNEY FURY AT POLICE RAID

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

RESIDENTS in Hackney, east London, angrily claimed yesterday that police violently laid siege to their block of flats on the Pembury Estate on Thursday night.

Eyewitnesses told News Line that at 5.30 pm up to 14 vans, including riot vans and unmarked vehicles, were used in a raid by police with dogs.

The raid came two days after armed police began 24-hour patrols in the area.

The police arrested 14 people, claiming in a letter posted through estate letter boxes that their actions were to 'combat the growing number of robberies, burglaries and drug-related offences occurring in the area'.

However, this was strongly denied by residents, who were incensed at the sight of police wearing bullet-proof vests, carrying revolvers and using CS gas.

Appeal

Following the raid grandmother Lucille Lawrence told News Line that she had been taken to hospital and given eye drops after police sprayed CS gas in her face.

She said: 'While I was watching a policeman ran to a door with a sledgehammer, two others came up to my door.

'One sprayed gas in my face and the other pushed me aside', she said angrily.

'They then pushed me, my daughter and daughter-in-law into my kitchen while they ransacked the place after jumping over my 2½-year-old granddaughter asleep on the sofa.

'It was a riot they were starting. I am very upset - something has to be done about this.'

Lucille's daughter Sandy said: 'The police slapped my brother around then got him on the floor, kneeling on his head.



The results of Thursday night's police raid on Pembury Estate

'The police are out of order. This happens too often on our estate.'

Hazel McCalla, whose husband, 19-year-old daughter and 15-year-old granddaughter were all arrested, said the police would not let her leave her

house.

She said: 'It was like being under house arrest. My husband had been away on a four-day course and was returning from work, but the police wouldn't let him in.

'After he insisted on his

right to enter his own home they grabbed and arrested him.

'They then arrested my daughter and granddaughter who tried to help him.

'My husband is a working man and he is innocent. The police were just arrest-

ing anyone who walked into the estate.'

All those arrested in Thursday night's raids were taken to Old Street police station to face charges ranging from possession of drugs to assaulting police officers.

Hackney police raid condemned

My home ransacked & family arrested — says grandmother

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

A MASSIVE police raid on the Pembury Estate in Hackney, east London, last Thursday night, has brought a storm of protest from residents.

Reports in the capitalist press claimed that the police were hunting for a 'crack factory'. It was claimed that a policeman was stabbed.

But residents adamantly deny this. They say that their homes were ransacked and that relatives were arrested without any justification by the police, some of whom wore bullet-proof vests, carried handguns and used sniffer dogs and sledgehammers.

The entire raid was filmed by police cameramen.

Grandmother Lucille Lawrence alleged that the police burst into her home and sprayed CS gas in her face.

Her son Trevor and his four friends were arrested.

Furious

Lucille was furious. She said her family home had been turned upside down during the raid.

'I am going to sue the police for what they have done to me and my family,' she said bitterly.

'Police jumped over my 21-year-old granddaughter asleep on the sofa as they pulled the place apart.'

'I feel so uptight. It was a riot they were starting,' she said.

Daughter Sandy also alleges. 'There were six policemen kneeling on my brother's head. It was out of order the whole thing.'

She alleged. 'This happened after, the police coming around the estate to intimidate us.'

Next door neighbour Hazel McCalls was fuming after the raid. She said her husband, 19-year-old daughter and 15-year-old granddaughter were all arrested.

According to Hazel: The police were not letting anyone leave or enter the estate while the raid was on. It was like being under house arrest.

My husband returned from work and when he got angry at not being allowed into his house to be with his family, he was arrested.

He was screaming 'you're taking my arms', my daughter went to him and got arrested herself.

Six policemen had her pinned down. They were very physical and rough with her. She was handcuffed.



A ransacked flat — the results of last Thursday's raid



DERICK NICHOLS

behind. The police picked her up like a log of wood. 'My granddaughter tried to get the police off my husband and she was arrested. She is four months pregnant.'

'It was a farce. As soon as they broke into the flats and found them empty, the police should have left.'

Robert Benjamin was arrested after he walked onto the estate returning from work.

'I was dragged into a van by about five policemen,' he said. Lucille's husband Derrick Nichols, a Ford's steward, said: 'This is a police state. They were so heavy-handed.'

'If Dianne Abbott is our MP then instead of flying all over the world she should have been here.'

'Who should the people turn to in Hackney?

The Labour Council could have cooled down the tension before. We know there is a drug problem, but that's the environment we're living in.

'We don't want our children to grow up like this but the council see it as a dumping ground.'

'Now can we really say the Labour Council is a caring council? There should be creches and things for our kids but there's nothing.'

'That grows violence, that breeds it. Who the hell wants to live like this?'

Spark

'The last summer and all you need is a spark. It's a living volcano just waiting to erupt and the police are pushing the youth into it.'

'The police force are a bullwork of oppression. The issue is oppression against oppression, but will Kinnoch address that?'

'Labour is endorsing capitalism. We have it here on the council, just like they are trying to bring private contractors into Ford's.'

'If Kinnoch gets in, he'll keep we're restraint etc, but we've got that already with the present government.'

'People in Hackney want an alternative. A Workers Revolutionary Government is a good possibility — you only need a spark, as there's a wind of change like in Eastern Europe.'

'A Council of Action is a good idea. We should have

on everyone's door and tell them that it's in their children's and grandchildren's interest to do something.'

Fifty two-year-old Donald Calder claimed: 'You see drug simulators but all the riot vans on that night were ill-reg.'

'They're using our money for this — 45 a minute for that helicopter. They are supposed to be law-abiding.'

'Children were running around when they came, asked an inspector what example were they setting. He couldn't say anything — he just smiled.'

'It was terrible. I'm sorry I didn't have a camera because I was very annoyed about the guns they had. We're not birds they can shoot down.'

'It was something, as old as I am, that will never leave my mind. Imagine what effect this had on the children.'

Another one of those arrested was 21-year-old Norman Reid. He also claims: 'The police burst into the house spraying some form of gas in Lucille's face.'

'After that I ran into the gas but had to turn back. A policeman pushed me and I hit my head on the wall.'

Norman said he was handcuffed and put on the bed and searched. He claims that when he asked for evidence of identification, the police rudely told him to get lost.

'They way I see it is they came into the house on the



LUCILLE, HAZEL, and SANDY (right) with her granddaughter LIANKA



NORMAN REID in front of Shoppey House, Pembury estate

was a crack factory,' Norman said.

'They filmed me handcuffed on the bed. They were treating everyone really rough.'

Norman also claimed: 'The policeman that was actually cut his arm on a pain of glass the police smashed.'

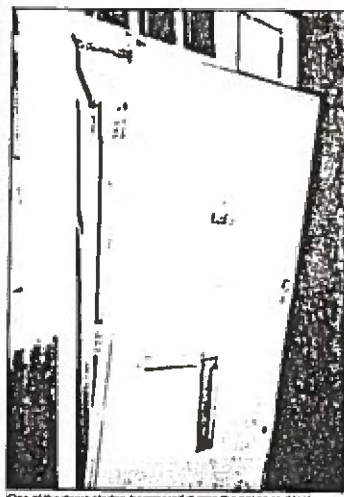
And he stated: 'None of us take drugs. Crack is a

due from it or become disrespectful.'

'People who push it are the scum of the estate. I'm totally against it.'

The government can't say they are running the country in a leadership fashion. It isn't their children who suffer, who's education is being run down.'

'And old people dying at winter — they just don't



One of the doors sledge-hammered during the police raid last Thursday night

'Parliament wouldn't attempt to run the country far it's a talking shop.'

Last Friday's 'Hackney Gazette' made a case for more police action, with its front page headline 'None to Stop Violent Thugs'.

The report featured an appeal from Hackney's 'top cop' Bernard Taffs.

It said: 'Chief Superintendent Taffs revealed alarming figures showing

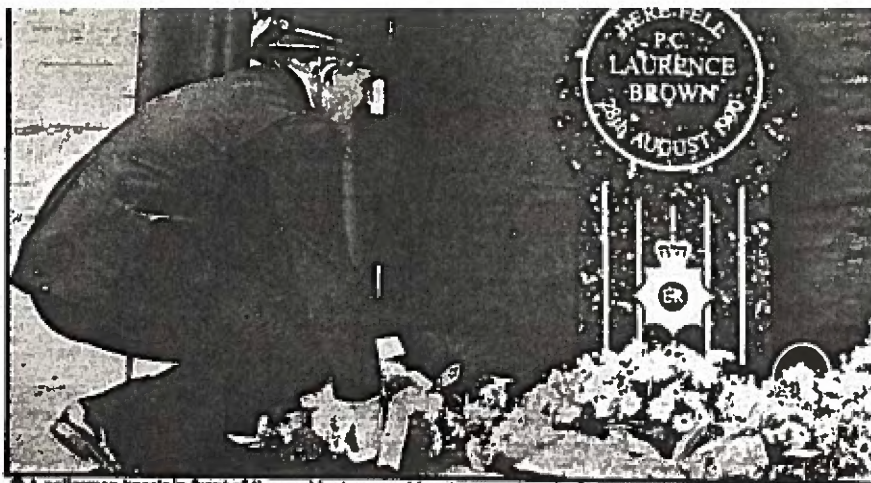
increasingly the target of crazed villains wielding guns, knives and machetes.'

And further that drug dealers 'routinely carry firearms for protection'.

The raid on Pembury follows the start of 24-hour patrols of Armed Response Vehicles in London, in which police units carry a

9.7.91

NEWS LINE



● A policeman kneels in front of the marble stone marking the spot where Pc Brown was slain.



● Movie director Michael Winner at the unveiling of the memorial.



● Pc Brown's widow, Janet, and daughter, Emma.



● Pc Ian Slaney, who was stabbed on duty, meets his boss, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs.

Prime Minister pays tribute to murdered officer as another Pc shrugs off a brush with death

Tears as Pc Brown's memorial is unveiled

THE Prime Minister, John Major, paid tribute to the bravery of murdered Pc Laurence Brown as a simple marble memorial was unveiled on the spot where he was gunned down by Mark Gaynor in Orwell Court, Haggerston, this week.

"In memory of Pc Laurence Brown, a brave and gallant man. We all share his family's grief at their loss and their pride at his courage," Mr Major wrote on a note with a sheaf of blue flowers.

The memorial was unveiled on Monday morning by Home Office minister Earl Ferrers, deputising for Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker.

Stabbed bobby welcomes his return to work

AS Pc Brown's ultimate sacrifice was commemorated, another Hackney cop who was stabbed six times while arresting a suspect a fortnight ago told the Gazette he has no worries about going back to work.

Rookie Pc Ian Slaney, 19, will not return to work for another six weeks, but he said: "I will be getting out there and starting up where I left off. The stabbing was a shock, but you have to crush that blow," he said.

"I am really enjoying it, and I hope to do my full 30 years. The place is really not as bad as people outside say. If I could choose where I was stationed I would pick this area because you can learn here in 10 weeks what it would take 40 weeks to learn at a station in the country."

Stories by
MARK GOULD

Pictures by
CHRIS WOOD

The Metropolitan Police Band, in full dress uniform and white helmets and gloves, played Beethoven's Pastoral symphony and the theme tune from TV's *Dixon of Dock Green* as guests, including Hackney Mayor Gerry Ross and Pc Brown's parents Peter and Flossy, assembled.

As flowers were being laid at the foot of the memorial by London's top policeman, Sir Peter Imbert and Pc Peter Townsend, who was Pc Brown's patrol car partner at the time of the shooting, his widow Janet, cradling baby Emma, finally broke down and was comforted by Larry's brothers, twins Paul and Colin.

Earlier, movie director Michael Winner, who set up

the Police Memorial Trust, spoke of "the thin blue line that protects us all from the forces of evil," and of the courage of men and women like Pc Brown who make up that line facing "daily dangers so we may live in safety."

He added: "To Janet and Emma I would say two simple words, but they come from the heart - thank you."

Commissioner Imbert said: "We can't forget what that tragic night meant to the Metropolitan Police service and his wife Janet, daughter Emma and the community."

"This was an irreversible loss and this memorial will be a permanent reminder of the day Pc Larry Brown gave his life."

East End bids fond farewell to popular copper

THE gravelly Scots tones of Pc Derek "Del Boy" Noble, BEM, will not be heard greeting the Bangladeshi-speaking population of the East End with a leery "salaam alaykhem" ever again.

On Friday, after 30 years on the beat in the East End, the only Scots Pc with a working knowledge of the Bangladeshi dialect of Sylheti finally said goodbye to the streets he loves.

At a farewell celebration at Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, attended by the MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney, Peter Shore, the mayor of Tower Hamlets, Barry Blandford, and a host of local dignitaries and senior police officers, Derek, 49, revealed that the po-

lice box at Tower Hill was where he did most of his courting with a young WPC who was to become his wife, Susan.

And another rookie partner of Derek from 30 years ago revealed the raw recruit from Stirling drove an area car down the steps of Monument Tube station where it got stuck.

Malcolm Sullivan, now Deputy Assistant Commissioner Sullivan, said the embarrassing incident happened as the young Derek strayed off the East End and into the City of London police patch.

That minor incident apart, DAC Sullivan paid tribute to Derek's hard work, dedication and courage as a

East End cop. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours Lists.

But what was not so well known was that he twice received commissioner's commendations for bravery in tackling armed raiders.

Tower Hamlets councillor Akkur Rahman praised Derek's work as a youth and community officer. Much of his work was among the 20,000 Bangladeshi population.

A message of thanks and congratulations was received from the Bangladeshi High Commissioner.

Derek and Susan are retiring to the small Scottish town of Tillycultray in Clackmannanshire.



● Derek Noble - retiring to Scotland.

Racist leaflets sent to Jewish homes

RACIST leaflets saying the murder of six million Jews gassed in Nazi death camps was a lie are being distributed to Jewish homes in Stamford Hill.

The leaflets carrying a "poem" entitled Holocaust say the Holocaust exterminations in concentration camps during the Second World War did not happen.

And they carry a dedication to prominent Jewish ex-Cabinet Minister, Greville Janner MP. This week he said the House of Commons War Crimes Committee, the Board of Jewish Deputies and Scotland Yard were hunting the authors, who could be jailed.

"These are filthy and obscene pamphlets, and I hope we will be able to track down whoever is responsible for them," he said.

Hackney's senior Jewish politicians, mayor Gerry Ross and Tory leader Joe Lobenstein, have written to Home Secretary Kenneth Baker demanding action to curb the threat of ultra-right wing extremism.

Police clear council builders from Town Hall

POLICE evicted more than 200 angry council workers from Tower Hamlets Council chamber as they heard Liberal bosses agree compulsory redundancy plans that could mean the loss of their jobs.

The men and women, all members of the borough's Direct Labour Organisation, staged an angry sit-down demonstration in the public gallery of the Town Hall as shouts of "Judas" rained down on the Liberals.

With the meeting thrown into chaos by noise, council chiefs ordered the police to clear the gallery.

Three officers had to pick up NALGO convenor Bill Wakefield as he staged a one-man lie-in after shouting "these people have mortgages and children, you are taking away their lives."

Unions are angry that the new plan comes as the DLO are showing signs of success after shedding hundreds of jobs and agreeing a new incentive scheme and recovery strategy.

In May, 30 workers from the DLO in Bethnal Green were sacked at a cost of £250,000 in redundancy pay according to the unions, as

private contractor was brought in. Liberal leader Peter Hughes said the compulsory redundancy plan would prevent more job losses and would only come after voluntary redundancies and a severance scheme.

"There are a number of people in the unions who are winding staff up that the axe is about to fall. If you look at it in detail, it follows clear steps.

"People are saying they are worried about jobs, but if you haven't got a slimmer, more efficient and profitable DLO, then there will be

no DLO," he said. Fellow Liberal, Cllr Jeremy Shaw, announced the economic climate meant the end of what he called the council jobs for life system that had gone on for years.

UCATT regional organiser Billy Butler told councillors the measures would add to dule queues in one of the poorest boroughs in the country.

"Leaving the borough in the hands of cowboy private contractors can't be in the best interests of the people of Tower Hamlets," he said.

HC
12-7-91

Refugees fear rule changes

FAMILIES in Hackney will be kept apart by new immigration rules planned by the government, legal advice workers warned this week.

Parents will be split from children and spouses may not be able to join their partners under proposed changes in dealing with asylum and other cases, Hackney Law Centre predicted.

The changes could affect hundreds of families in the borough, and in particular many of the Kurdish refugees who fled torture and repression in Turkey to seek

sanctuary here two years ago. The government has announced it wants to withdraw legal aid from all immigration cases, demand more proof from asylum-seekers and crack down on bogus refugees.

But the moves would be disastrous, and could lead to untold individual misery, claimed Steve Cragg, of the Hackney Law Centre, in Mare Street.

"Refugees in Hackney will have great difficulty in bringing their families to the borough," he said. "We are talking about split families, parents perhaps separated from their children, and this will stop them reuniting their families and cause

misery and unhappiness." Immigrants and asylum-seekers would not trust the government-run UK Immigration Advice Service, added Mr Cragg, and the end of legal aid for immigration meant the free law centres would be swamped with cases which they could not properly investigate because of lack of resources.

Although refugees who already had what is called exceptional leave to remain would be unaffected, future refugees were far more likely to be turned back rather than allowed to stay while their cases were examined, he said.

The national Law Centres Federation slammed the Home Secretary's statements that many refugees' claims were bogus as unsupportable, given the increase in conflict around the world, and attacked the long delays in deciding cases.

Police reject 'revenge' dig at drugs raid

ONE of Hackney's senior policemen has hit out angrily at claims that a mass drugs raid on the Pembury Estate was racist and revenge for the killing of Pc Laurence Brown.

Hackney Council for Racial Equality (HCRE) made the allegations after 85 policemen stormed the estate in Lower Clapton on Thursday afternoon of last week. Detectives arrested 13 people, including seven for drugs-related offences.

During the operation, a dog-handler, Pc Andy Thomas, was stabbed in the arm.

Race watchdog HCRE say they received a flood of complaints about the raid, seen by the black community as revenge for the murder of Pc Brown who was shot dead by black gunman Mark Gaynor last August.

Lloyd King, chair of HCRE, said: "We do not believe that the police have a right to avenge the killing of their colleagues."

And HCRE secretary Inno Amadi raised the frightening spectre of more riots this summer because of a "reservoir of resentment" against the police by local blacks.

"Things have got a lot worse for the black community since last year," he said, "and tensions are rising

by STEWART FOWLER

again. The police attitude has hardened. People didn't like the way the police were searching youths who had nothing to do with the raid."

But Supt David Hynes, of Hackney police, said he was appalled at HCRE's statements.

He said: "I deplore any suggestion that our policing activity had anything to do with the death of one of our officers."

"The reception we got from all sections of the community on the estate was one of welcoming the action which they saw as long overdue."

"Before the operation, people were frightened to walk around that part of the estate, and it was intolerable that such a situation existed where residents didn't feel safe in their own home environment."

● Tears as Pc Brown's memorial is unveiled - page 5

Labour man wins damages over print strike arrest

A LABOUR councillor has won £8,000 damages in an out-of-court settlement after he brought charges of wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution against two police officers during the three-year dispute at Wapping.

Cllr Derek Gadd, who represents Stepney's St Dunstan's ward in Tower Hamlets, was arrested while leading a residents' demonstration in support of 5,000 print workers sacked from Rupert Murdoch's News International plant in East Smithfield on the first anniversary of the dispute on January 24, 1987.

Print unions had organised a major demonstration and Cllr Gadd led residents who were angry at the way the men had been sacked and

the way the dispute was being policed in the streets around the plant.

At about 10.30pm Cllr Gadd - who was not a councillor at the time - was arrested for allegedly using threatening words and behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

He was acquitted of the charge at Wells Street Magistrates' Court on April 27, 1987, and later brought a civil action against the Commissioner of Police on charges including wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

This was settled last Friday when Cllr Gadd's solicitors were informed of the offer. He should be paid within the next 10 days.

A Scotland Yard spokesperson would not comment on the payment, other than to say there was no admission of liability on the part of the Metropolitan Police.

HC 12.7.91

STRIKE OVER FRAUD PROBE

Heavy-handed, but police raid justified

AS A Pembury Estate resident and witness to the police raid which occurred on July 4, I feel compelled to comment on the Gazette coverage. Despite the scale of the operation and its subsequent coverage in the Evening Standard and on Thames News etc., the Gazette seemed hard-pressed to squeeze a small piece on the back page. There were many details sadly missing.

It is disappointing that Chief Supt Taffs didn't arrange for the presence of one single black officer on the raid, as he must have known how this would be perceived by the local community.

There is no doubt the operation was heavy-handed, and I saw officers using excessive force to search a black youth who was simply returning from work. The tension has been building up in this area for a long time, and I can only hope that, having made a show of strength, the police will not just allow the situation to deteriorate again.

I am sure that most of the community would welcome a regular, larger and more consistent level of policing, providing it was seen to be a racially unbiased one.

Despite my reservations (based on experience) about the racial impartiality of all British police forces, and particularly Hackney's, I find myself in complete agreement with Supt David Hynes' comments in the Gazette story.

Lloyd King, chair of Hackney Council for Racial Equality, would do better to turn his attention to genuine cases of prejudice instead of manipulating local opinion for his own political ends. His comments and attempts to link this event with the killing of Pc Laurence Brown are dangerous and wide of the mark. The quotes from HCRB secretary Inno Amadi are verging on incitement to riot.

I don't dismiss the justified reality of black mistrust of the police. In many instances I, too, would question their behaviour. But in this case, I'm convinced their actions have halted serious criminal activities and a growing threat to the locality.

In conclusion, Hackney Police, for once, have my full support in their action. In the last week, Pembury Estate has become a slightly safer, quieter and more pleasant environment to live in, and that can't be a bad thing for Hackney - can it? - A PEMBURY RESIDENT, LOWER CLAPTON (NAME SUPPLIED).

● Editor's footnote: By the time the Gazette appeared, the raid was more than seven days old and had been covered fully elsewhere. But it was still the main story on the back page which is hardly "squeezing in a small piece".



Successful police bait hooks a courage award

A WOMAN police officer who acted as muggers' bait in an undercover crackdown against robbers, has been presented with a special award for her courage by top cops.

WPC Melanie Bennett, of City Road police station, posed as a potential victim for vicious thugs who were terrorising the Middleton Road and Kingsland Road area of Dalston last summer.

On July 21, 1990, while backed up by a team of surveillance coppers, a man ran up behind WPC Bennett, shoved her and snatched her handbag before running off.

But the police arrested him and later his accomplice who acted as look-out. At the robbers' trial, the pair pleaded guilty to 34 robberies, including several where victims

had been seriously injured.

WPC Bennett received a commendation, presented by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor, at a special ceremony at the Metropolitan Police Sports and Social Club in Chigwell, which was attended by Hackney MP Diane Abbott and Deputy Mayor Harry Shaw.

The trial judge also paid tribute to WPC Bennett's bravery: "I want to say I've got the greatest admiration for that sort of courage and I'm sure that the public is very grateful for it."

● WPC Melanie Bennett receives a commendation from Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Taylor for helping to track down a team of robbers.

We're scapegoats, claim housing service workers

MORE than 500 Hackney Council housing workers walked out on a one-day strike on Wednesday, bringing the housing service to a standstill.

The action came as detectives from Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad and the council's own internal investigators continued their probe into allegations of multi-million-pound swindles in the housing department.

Town Hall unions NALGO and NUPE called the strike after claiming the fraud inquiry is being used to scapegoat individual workers, that some staff have been sacked without the chance to fully explain their actions and that union stewards are being harassed.

Three arrested

So far, three former housing workers have been arrested and charged by police, five dismissed and nine suspended - and as other three are "missing and wanted."

Staff walked out despite an appeal from Bernard Crofton Hackney's housing director, to stay at their desks. He warned: "A strike will be seen - rightly or wrongly - as support for corruption."

In a letter to all workers, claiming they had been given "false and distorted information" from union stewards, he said: "The effect is to ask you to support a system that has bred corruption and they are asking you to support the corruption itself."

"If you support the action you will besmirch the names of Hackney Council, Hackney Housing, NALGO, NUPE and yourselves."

Condemned

The strike was condemned by all Parties. Colin Beadle, leader of the Liberal Democrats and the man who blew the whistle on the housing fraud, said: "This is nothing more than a cynical attempt to frustrate the fraud inquiry."

"It will only delay the investigation and assist corrupt officers to cover up their criminal activities."

And Labour council leader John McCafferty said: "Industrial action will certainly not stop us from investigating allegations of corruption and taking action against staff found to be involved. Members of staff who are not involved have nothing

● Continued on back page

Strike over fraud probe

● From page 1

fear from these investigations, but in the interests of tenants and homeless people who are our responsibility we are determined to kick the crooks out of Hackney."

● A report by local finance watchdog, the District Auditor, warned Town Hall bosses that the housing benefit section was wide open to fraud.

The in-depth review, carried out in August last year and just published, specifically warned: "The housing benefit section is highly susceptible to fraud, both internal and external."

It also warned that many necessary checks, of "paramount importance" to stop fraud, were missing.

Town Hall chiefs say many of the auditor's recommendations have now been implemented.

HG 19.7.91